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Kuwait Times **Friday Times**



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Duterte killed justice official, hitman tells Philippine senate

18



Bali tourist boat explosion kills two foreigners

18



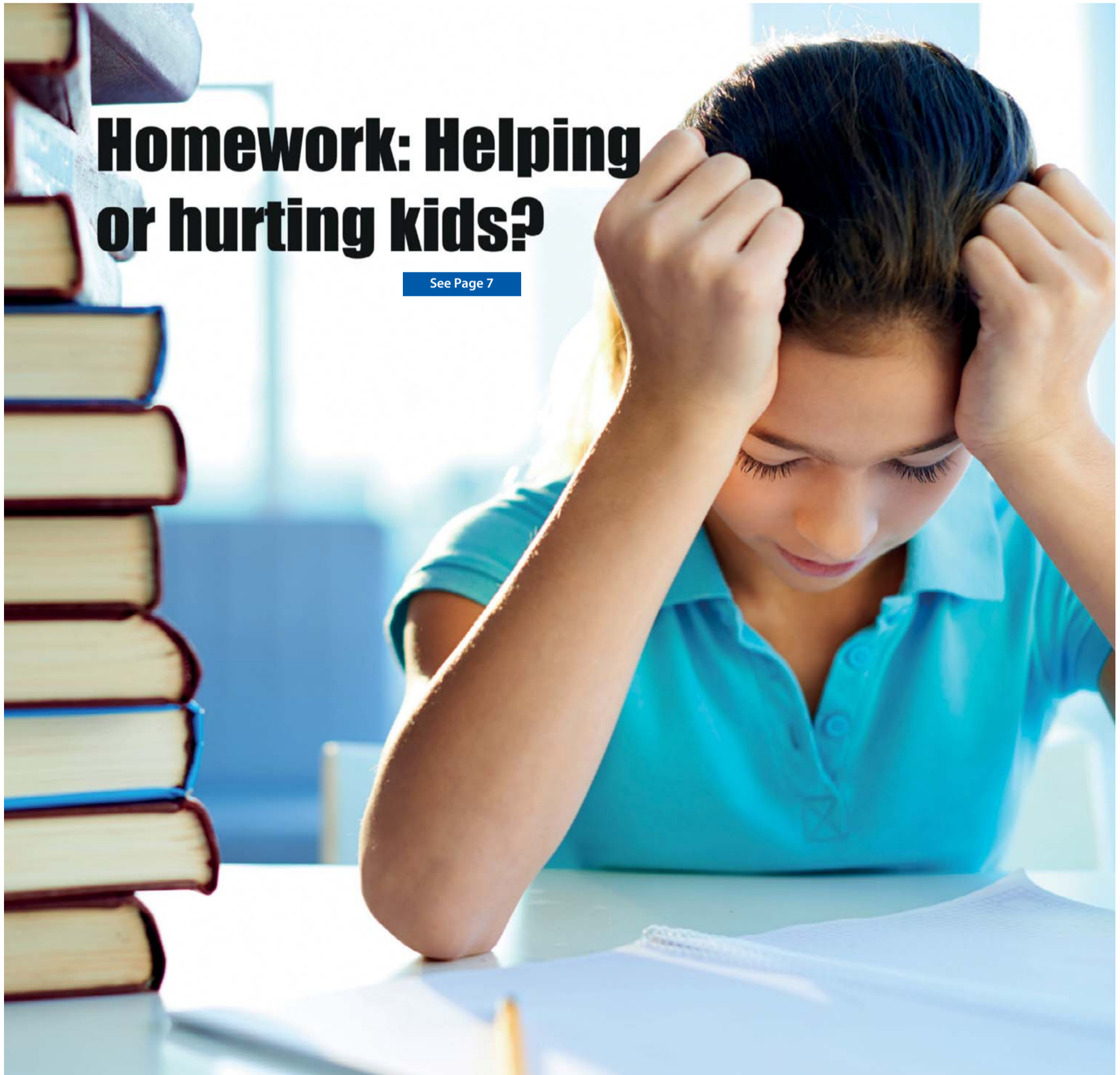
Ronaldo, Morata rescue Real from Sporting upset

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Homework: Helping or hurting kids?

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Local Spotlight

EXIT TAX FOR EXPATS?



By Muna Al-Fuzai

muna@kuwaittimes.net

A few days ago MP Abdurrahman Al-Jeeran announced through local media several suggestions that he thinks would benefit the Kuwaiti economy and the country's future. Most of his views were related to expats in Kuwait. He called for collecting fees from expatriates leaving through Kuwait International Airport, something along the lines of an exit tax. He also argued that the government has the right to inspect expats' bank accounts and examine incomes and the movement of money through the 'free access law' which allows the government to check bank accounts even if the Central Bank of Kuwait's law protects account confidentiality.

Exit tax for expats

I don't wish to comment on all his views but, as for the exit tax, I would like to say something. I have seen it applied in some very poor countries when a visitor wants to leave, he / she pays a small tax at customs. The reason for this is to support the economy of the poor country. Are we a very poor country? Are we that desperate? I wonder what we really want from the expats in our community? Maybe after a while the exit tax could be applied to all of us and then Kuwait would have another source of income comparable to oil?

The second point, Al-Jeeran called for the government to inspect expat bank accounts. I need to say that the Central Bank of Kuwait's law protects accounts' confidentiality because of a constitutional right that doesn't allow any information about bank accounts to be made public. In Europe, you need a court approval to open and release secret accounts of people. Some reasons that a court may order such is suspicion of money laundering, or support for terrorist organizations. If it becomes possible for any power to check bank accounts as they wish it, would be a mess and public bank confidentiality would be jeopardized because people would lose trust in the banking system. And what's to stop this from happening eventually to everyone, expats and citizens alike?

Why do we always attack expats?

I believe we in Kuwait are faced with many different problems like any developed country, some we have created and accepted, and some we can't move out of due to lack of solutions. But why do we lay the blame for everything at the feet of the expats? It may be true that a few expats have benefited from corruption as some Kuwaitis have. But the vast majority are working here to simply earn a living and definitely Kuwait benefits from their talent, skills, labor and overall contributions. At the same time, they daily suffer abuse and mistreatment because of Kuwait's discriminatory policies, corruption and medieval sponsorship laws.

I agree there are plenty of issues related to expats that need to be addressed. The large numbers of marginal, uneducated labor, the abuse of domestic labor (both in terms of recruitment and treatment) and the continued corruption and waste of large numbers of unskilled laborer recruitment.

But not all expats should be blamed for the corruption of a few. Nor should we forget that there are expats who have lived there entire lives in Kuwait, supporting and contributing to its development. For them Kuwait is home.

We do have some expats who only moved to Kuwait recently and because of waste they have won citizenship and make huge fortunes through corruption.

For me, the first category deserve an open residency (free iqama), the least we can do to thank them for being part of our society and the long stay as well as all their contributions to making Kuwait a strong and developing country.

This country was built with the support of many expats including teachers, engineers and doctors ... and even those who pick up the dirt and trash are doing us a service. If their number is too high then reduce it but not by making a comprehensive and collective punishment to all.

To all hard working expats, thank you.
muna@kuwaittimes.net

PHOTO OF THE DAY



KUWAIT: Sheep are an important part of the Eid Al-Adha celebrations as Muslims are required to sacrifice one if they are financially able. — Photo by KUNA

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RECORD NUMBER OF KUWAITIS VISIT US

KUWAIT: The Embassy of the United States in Kuwait is pleased to announce that more Kuwaitis have visited America in 2016 so far than any other year on record. In 2016, Kuwaiti travelers have entered the United States over 75,000 times as of September 1, including over 14,000 students attending academic programs.

These record numbers are part of a trend reaching back over a decade, which saw an increase in Kuwaiti travelers of more than 500 percent from 2005 to 2016. These trends demonstrate that more than ever, the United States welcomes visitors from Kuwait. Travel for business, tourism, medical treatment, and education is an important tie that binds our two countries in an exceptionally close relationship.

The Embassy is aware of reports of Kuwaiti citizens being denied entry into the United States this year. While US authorities make every effort to avoid this situation, an extremely small number of Kuwaiti visitors are not allowed to enter the country for a variety of reasons. This

year, less than one in every 1,000 Kuwaiti travelers was denied entry. Those denied entry occasionally include Kuwaiti students attempting to return to their university or college, while no longer a student in good standing at that school. Loss of student status can lead to revocation of a US visa. To determine whether their student status remains valid, returning students should contact their designated school official. That official can confirm their status in the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS).

As has always been the case, visitors to the United States are responsible for what they carry with them, so travelers should make sure that their belongings conform to US regulations. It is worth noting that a visa does not guarantee entry into the United States. The decision on whether an individual is allowed to enter the United States is made at the port of entry by the US Customs and Border Protection Agency (CBP). - From the US Embassy to Kuwait



KUWAIT: A penumbral lunar eclipse, when the Earth's main shadow does not cover the moon, will be visible over Kuwait tonight. — KUNA



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Remembering Al-Salam Complex

By Athoob Al-Shuaibi

As you move along SAM Street, or Salem Al-Mubarak Street, in Salmiya, you'll notice a clear manifestation of continuous urban development. This lane became the high street of Kuwait after the discovery of oil.

In the pre-oil era, Salmiya was mostly inhabited by the Awazem tribe and known by a different name. But when the area within the boundaries of the three walls of Kuwait City became overpopulated, some families including members of the ruling family and other families like Al-Musallam, Al-Qana'at and Al-Hamad moved further out, triggering the development in Salmiya.

However, after the oil boom, construction of villas on Salem Al-Mubarak Street was halted, while some villa owners demolished their homes to build multi-storey buildings to house foreigners who came to work and trade in Kuwait.

In the 1950s, Salem Al-Mubarak Street became a commercial hub and symbol of multiculturalism. The buildings took foreign and modern shapes. One of these architectural gems was the Al-Salam Complex (also called Al-Salam Building), owned by Saud Sahood Al-Mutairi. The green-colored building was constructed in the 1960s and had a unique cylindrical shape. It was a precedent for its age, seared in the minds of the generation who grew up witnessing Kuwait's economic and cultural development.

Sadly, this building wasn't considered a historical landmark by law, which only recognizes structures built before 1920. Amending the law will not be adequate to protect our urban legacies, because many buildings are private properties under the sole discretion of their owners. Al-Salam Complex was demolished and replaced by an eponymous 7,696-sq-m shopping mall. The mall contains 116 stores and opened its doors last year.

Notably, Bayt Lothan (House of Lothan), which is considered a pre-oil historical building and a beacon of creativity in the dissemination of culture and arts to this day, has been earmarked for demolition and will be rebuilt as yet another shopping mall in Salmiya, angering local artists and historians.

In the end, not every old building holds historical weight and not every historical landmark is preserved. Thinking positively, the new shopping centers could be catalysts for encounters between various community groups. The advantage of space allocated indoors against the harsh weather is likely to be a better alternative to the old open shops. Nonetheless, laws and regulations must be updated to preserve the vestiges of the past and the historical treasures of Kuwait's olden days.

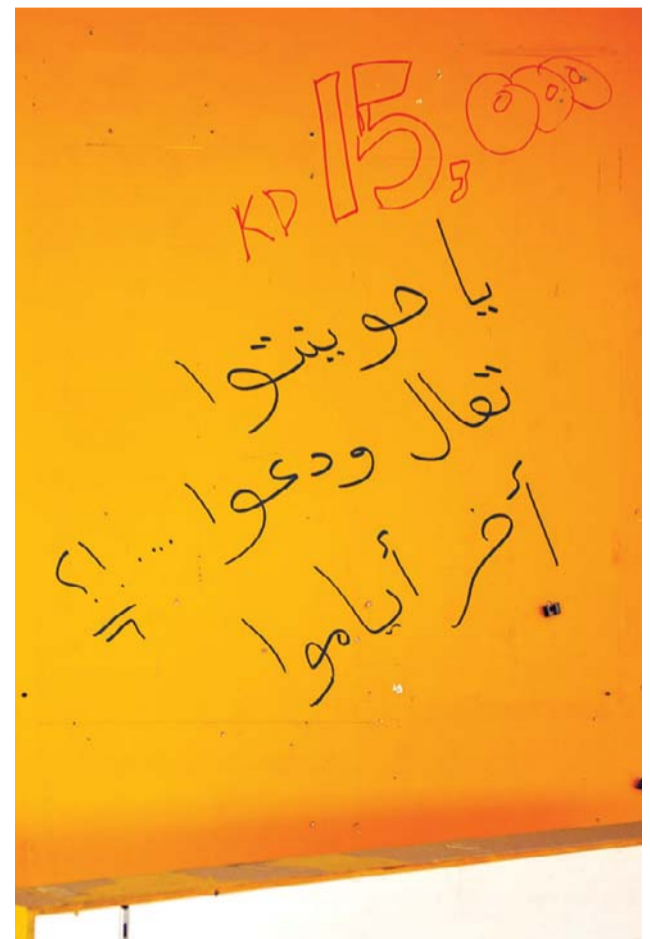


The old Salam Building was built in the 1960s at the intersection of Salem Al-Mubarak Street in Salmiya.

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Al-Salam Building has been replaced with the new Al-Salam Mall. — Photos by Athoob Al-Shuaibi



Someone wrote a sad goodbye message on one of the Salam Building shops after the building's demolition began: "Oh eyes, come and say goodbye to its last days."



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HELPING OR HURTING? HOMEWORK IN THE MODERN AGE

By Faten Omar

Is homework a part of the learning process, which extends and reinforces the learning experiences that occur in the classroom? Or is it just a waste of time? Is it really necessary or effective? Does it help at all? More and more parents and teachers are questioning the value of homework. In the States, some schools have begun instituting 'no homework' policies, especially for children in the elementary and middle school grades.

The 10-minute rule

After eight hours of school, most students do not want to spend hours more doing homework. And its increasingly unclear whether homework has any inherent value. In the US, the National Education Association and the National Parent-Teacher Association have called for a 10-minute rule for homework. This rule essentially recommends 10 minutes of homework per grade level, beginning with first grade. So kids in first grade receive no more than 10 minutes of homework per night, kids in second grade get 20 minutes and so on. Some parents oppose even this.

"Homework does not help to make any academic progress. Instead, it causes health problems for them and myself, like stress, tension, sleep disorders, depression, anger and other mood disorders. I'm spending hours to teach my children what I pay for the school to do," said Simone Salcedo, a mother of two children.

Salcedo sends her children to a Filipino school in Salmiya. "The child is not supposed to spend the whole day at school, then return to do homework. They have to play, explore, relax, do household tasks and get enough sleep," she told Kuwait Times. She said that her children spend their school week doing homework for five subjects at least, and on top of this she spends an additional two to three hours each evening on homework. "I'm paying the school to teach my kids. I spend the mornings at work, and all evenings doing homework for the new lessons."

"Home assignments have no effect on students' progress in school. The best example is that there is no homework in Finland. Their law also provides for the child not to be tested until the age of 11 years," explained Eman Elkhoully, mother of a private school student. Elkhoully agreed with Salcedo's opinion that homework is a lot and takes too much time to do. She added that Kuwait must follow Finland's footsteps, which occupies first place in the education category and make adjustments regarding homework. "It is difficult for young children to deal with complex skills such as time management, or understand their feelings and deal with them over different assignments and duties."

Other parents differ, arguing that teachers cannot make sure that every child understands their lessons in a class of 25 to 40 students. Jasmine said homework is useful for her son and makes him practice what he has learned in school that day. "The child will learn responsibility and develop self-discipline. I would prefer my child spends his time doing homework than waste his time playing video games," she told Kuwait Times.

Divided opinions

Teachers too are divided about the value and role of nightly homework. "Homework is an important part of the school's



This rule essentially recommends 10 minutes of homework per grade level, beginning with first grade. So kids in first grade receive no more than 10 minutes of homework per night, kids in second grade get 20 minutes and so on.

tips for parents

You can do many things at home to show your child that you value education and homework, such as:

- ✪ Set a regular time and place for homework;
- ✪ Remove distractions;
- ✪ Provide supplies and identify resources; and
- ✪ Be interested in what your child is learning.

Communication with teachers is very important for helping your child with homework. Here are some important things to remember:

- ✪ **Talk with each of your child's teachers early in the school year.** Let teachers know that you want to be kept informed about what goes on at school.
- ✪ **Contact teachers as soon as you suspect your child has a homework problem.** Schools have a responsibility to keep you informed about your child's performance and behavior. Or, you may realize a problem exists before the teacher discovers it. Together, you can solve a problem in its early stages.
- ✪ **Request a meeting with teachers to discuss homework problems.** Tell teachers briefly why you want to meet, and make the arrangements.
- ✪ **Let teachers know whether your child finds the assignments too hard or too easy.**



approach to help young people work, think and learn on their own. We understand that primary children will often need help with their homework and appreciate the significant support provided by families in this regard," said Munira Al-Nahed, a primary teacher.

She told Kuwait Times that homework aims to develop and encourage the habit of reading, and allow the student to revise the work done in class, or prepare for the following lesson. "The habit of regular work at home is a good routine. Teachers must be aware that the maximum recommended homework time per night in the primary phase is 20 minutes for the first year and 10 minutes more for the next grade," Nahed added.

"The time that students spend on homework varies depending on the subject and student's ability. If a child experiences difficulties completing homework, parents are asked to send a note to the teacher in the assignment planner," said Sami Al-Suwailem, a teacher of students who have learning difficulties. He explained that home assignments are not expected to be returned perfectly if a child has trouble - it is a signal for the teacher to reteach a skill or review the assignment.

According to teachers, to implement these practices, students must be motivated to do their homework in the first place. Fahd Abu Hussein, a science teacher, pointed out that homework also takes a long time for teachers in preparing and correcting. "We must remember that duties and responsibilities is not a matter of how nice they are, but are necessary to keep moving in academic life. Homework is a part of the lives of children around the world, and it has great importance to the improvement of children's thinking and memory. It helps them develop skills and positive attitudes. It also benefits their families - some moms did not complete their schooling, so they have a chance to learn with their kids," he reasoned.

Homework internationally

According to the Trends in Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS), the highest homework loads are associated with countries that have lower incomes and higher social inequality. Undoubtedly, homework is a global phenomenon - students from all 59 countries that participated in the 2007 study reported getting homework. Worldwide, only less than 7 percent of fourth graders said they did no homework. In some nations like Algeria, Kuwait and Morocco, more than one in five fourth graders reported high levels of homework. In Japan, less than 3 percent of students indicated they did more than four hours of homework on a normal school night.

The Program for International Student Assessment (PISA), in a 2008 survey, said one-third of parents polled rated the quality of their children's homework assignments as fair or poor, and 4 in 10 said they believed that some or a great deal of homework was busywork. A new study, in the Economics of Education Review, reports that homework in science, English and history has "little to no impact" on student test scores. (The authors did note a positive effect for math homework.)

To sum it up, enriching children's classroom learning requires making homework not shorter or longer, but smarter.

FRENCH POLICE ARREST TERROR SUSPECTS

TWO KUWAITIS QUESTIONED FOR TRYING TO BUY ASSAULT RIFLES

PARIS: French police have arrested a teenager suspected of plotting to kill in the name of the Islamic State, sources said, bringing the number of 15-years-olds detained on such grounds to three in the last week. The latest youth detained is believed to have been planning an imminent attack and using encrypted social media channels to communicate with a French Islamist militant believed to be in Syria or Iraq.

In an operation led by France's domestic intelligence agency, police arrested the teenager in eastern Paris. "We're working with extreme intensity to identify those we think are likely to carry out an

attack," Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve told reporters, adding that Islamic State was recruiting "younger and younger individuals".

One of the three youths was said to have been planning an imminent attack when he was arrested on Saturday. A source said on Wednesday that another 15-year-old had been arrested last week. A source inside the prosecutor's office said the youngsters had used the Telegram encrypted messaging system to communicate with Rachid Kassim, an Islamic State jihadist of French nationality. Their arrests follow the detention of three women, including a 19-year-old, who had allegedly

wanted to attack a Paris railway station using a car laden with gas cylinders.

France is reeling from a wave of militant attacks that have killed more than 230 people since January 2015, and its intelligence services are struggling to dismantle a web of militant networks inside the country. In November last year, a squad of suicide bombers and gunmen killed 130 people in a coordinated attack on multiple sites in Paris. In July, a Tunisian delivery man killed 86 people when he drove his truck through a crowd on Nice's seafront. Later that month two militants knifed to death an elderly priest at his altar in a church in northern France.

"What sets France apart (from other European nations) is the wide-open profile of recruit: urban or rural, Muslim or convert, man or woman," said Arnaud Danjean, a European Parliament lawmaker who specializes in defense and security. "Acts like the attempted attack with gas cylinders, the throat-slitting of a priest, or the guy who ploughs his truck through a crowd, that today is the face of this threat." In a separate case, police questioned three Syrians and two Kuwaitis suspected of trying to buy assault rifles, a source in the prosecutor's office said. There was no sign of a link to terrorism at this stage, the source said. — Reuters

News

in brief

Kuwaiti gold medalist Al-Mutairi gets \$30,000

KUWAIT: Kuwait Disabled Sports Club (KDSC) announced on Wednesday that it would bestow upon its athlete Ahmad Al-Mutairi a monetary award of \$30,000, after his victory in the wheelchair 100 meters-race of the Rio 2016 Paralympics. The award is a token of appreciation for Al-Mutairi, who set an unprecedented Olympic record of 16 seconds, KDSC President Shafi Al-Hajeri said in a press statement. Moreover, he added that KDSC will work with the Public Authority for Sport (PAS) to continue to motivate athletes as they look to amass exemplary accomplishments in future events. Al-Mutairi, one of six KDSC athletes participating in the Rio Paralympics, snagged the gold medal in the wheelchair 100-meters race on Saturday.

Kuwait oil price down 20 cents to \$40.88 pb

KUWAIT: The price of Kuwaiti crude oil went down 20 cents Wednesday to \$40.88 per barrel after it was at \$41.08 pb on the day before, said Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) yesterday. In world markets, oil prices plunged following official data from the US energy department showed a big weekly increase in US petroleum stockpiles up to 4.6 million barrel last week. The price of the Brent crude went down yesterday \$1.25 to \$45.85 per barrel. The West Texas Intermediate followed suit going down \$1.32 to \$43.58 pb.

IICO donates livestock to the needy in Sudan

KHARTOUM: The International Islamic Charitable Organization has distributed slaughtered livestock on Eid Al-Adha to more than 9,000 families in various Sudanese provinces. Dr Ahmad Al-Sanousi, the director of the IICO bureau in Sudan, said in a statement to KUNA that the aid project is conducted annually, with support from Kuwait Islamic Awqaf authority. The livestock were given to low-income families, orphans, Quran-learning and religion students, handicapped and ill people. The aid also reached the needy in Chad, South Sudan, Eritrean refugees in Sudan, at a total cost of one million Sudanese pounds (USD=6.8 Sudanese pounds). He expressed gratitude to the Kuwaiti donors for contributing to the good deed on the blessed Eid days.

Kuwait joins global fight against sepsis

KUWAIT: Kuwait along with other nations has been struggling to cut rates of septicemia cases by less than 20 percent by 2020, the Ministry of Health said. Statistics show that the disease causes death to 30-60 percent of newly-born babies and pregnant women at hospitals, said Dr Ghalia Al-Mutairi, in charge of the press office of the MoH, marking the World Sepsis Day (WSD) which falls Tuesday. At the local level, the MoH is taking action to enforce hygienic standards at health care centers, namely clinics and hospitals, she said. Moreover, the ministry is adopting technological methods to specify duration for providing medicines to the sick and giving full care for patients recovering from sepsis.



KUWAIT: Kuwait Ambassador to Italy Sheikh Ali Khaled Al-Jaber Al-Sabah attends a broad luncheon organized by the Muslim community during the Eid Al-Adha. — KUNA

ISLAM 'INSTRUMENTAL TO RELIGIOUS CO-EXISTENCE'

KUWAIT LAUDS ISLAMIC CENTER FOR PROMOTING TRUE ISLAM

PARIS: Islam has been "instrumental to the co-existence of different religions and ideologies ever since it first surfaced in the Arab world and across the globe," a Kuwaiti official said yesterday. Speaking at the "2016 International Conference on Peace," which kicked off Wednesday, Kuwait's Permanent Delegate to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Dr Mishal Hayat said that "Islam has always promoted tolerance, unity and peace." Moreover, he noted that, "knowledge and acceptance are pillars of a peaceful and stable society."

In another development, Kuwait Ambassador to Italy Sheikh Ali Khaled Al-Jaber Al-Sabah has praised the Islamic Center in Italy for its role in promoting the true image and essence of Islam as a message of tolerance among nations of the globe. Ambassador Sheikh Ali Khaled, in remarks to KUNA after attending a broad luncheon, organized by the Muslim community on Eid Al-Adha, affirmed the State of Kuwait's support for the center and the affiliate Grand Mosque for their key role in preaching values such as dialogue, co-existence and tolerance, as well as renouncing extremism and isolation.

He called, during the gathering, attended by diplomats and dignitaries, for removing "barricades that have been created by hostile powers seeking to isolate the Muslims worldwide." Youth must be guided and well cared for to protect them from deviation "into the swamp of radicalism," Sheikh Ali Khaled stressed.

The ambassador indicated that he had called for holding an Islamic cultural week in the European nation, to be within framework of proclaiming Kuwait the Capital of Islamic Culture (2016). The Muslim community in Italy is estimated at two million. — Agencies

Crimes

report

KUWAIT EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER MIDEAST CRISIS, WARS

ARAB PARLIAMENT CONDEMNS US BILL

STRANGE CASE OF STRANGE VOICES AND OTHER CRIMES

KUWAIT: A female citizen living in Rawda recently called the police reporting the presence of strangers in her house, said security sources noting that the woman reported hearing a stranger's voice coming from the ground floor. But after arriving on the scene, police searched the house and found no one. The Asian housemaid denied the presence of strangers or even hearing any strange voices in the house.

Fugitive arrested

Jahra detectives recently arrested a fugitive citizen who was wanted after having been sentenced to 10 years in absentia for a crime, said security sources noting that detectives were tipped off concerning the suspect's presence at his family home. The suspect was arrested on leaving the house.

Fireworks panic in mall

A child shooting off fireworks inside a popular shopping mall in Salmiya created panic recently. The child was playing while his family were having dinner and started popping off small fireworks, causing fear among others in the shopping complex. Security were called to investigate.

Car accident

A juvenile citizen was instantly killed and two others injured when they lost control over their vehicle and it flipped while driving along Abdali highway.

Wife abandons husband

An Arab expat recently reported that his wife left the house and that he suspects she has been cheating on him, security sources reported. The man explained that he woke up in the middle of the night and found that his wife was missing. He added that she had also packed her things, leaving her mobile phone behind. "I think she eloped," said the man. A case was filed.

Brothers-in-law assault citizen

A citizen was recently rushed to Adan hospital to treat the injuries he sustained when three of his brothers-in-law assaulted him at his home. Security sources added that the three in-laws said that they beat the man in response to his beating of their sister (the man's wife). A case was filed and further investigations are in progress.

GENEVA: Kuwait has expressed before the United Nations Human Rights Council its concern about the situation in the Middle East due to the continuation of wars and armed conflicts which are destroying everything. This came in a speech by Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva, Ambassador Jamal Al-Ghunaim before the 33rd session of the UN Human Rights Council while commenting on the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on human rights in the world.

The Kuwaiti ambassador said that vulnerable groups are exposed to violations and the consequent displacement and displacement thus, becoming the first victims. He added that "It is regrettable in this regard that we are seeing a significant decline of the concerns of the international community towards the peace process in the Middle East, thus, exacerbating the complexity of the situation and doubling the consequences that contributed to the continuing threat to security and stability of our region, and all of this was due to the failure by the international community to have Israel bear accountability for its crimes".

He expressed strong condemnation of the State of Kuwait and its opposition to the continuation of Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories and its clear violations against the unarmed Palestinian people, thereby flouting of international law, international humanitarian law and the Human Rights Council and its decisions. At the same time, the Kuwaiti ambassador said that Kuwait shares concern of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights about the situation in Syria, pointing out that Kuwait feels the pain of the distressed Syrian people over serious violations of their fundamental rights and freedoms.

He also said that Kuwait strongly condemns all military actions that take place without regard to the fate of civilians, and without taking into account the civil nature of health and educational institutions, and renewed its demand for all parties to respect the agreement on the cessation of hostilities and calls for facilitating the entry of humanitarian aid and relief agencies to all areas. He pointed out to the pioneering role of Kuwait in the face of the largest humanitarian disaster facing Syrians in Syria through the organization and hosting of the three donor conferences to support the humanitarian situation there and co-chairing the Fourth Conference, which was held in London with Britain, Germany and Norway.

Ambassador Al-Ghunaim also reiterated Kuwait's support to achieve security and stability in Yemen, praising the achievements of the National Commission of Inquiry that submitted its report, emphasizing Kuwait's keenness on supporting the Yemeni National Committee in its tasks and endeavors. In the same context, the Kuwaiti ambassador pointed to the large positive cooperation extended by the Kingdom of Bahrain in its efforts to promote human rights which requires encouragement praise.

He said, "The model presented by the Kingdom of Bahrain in dealing with human rights dossier deserves all the respect and appreciation which must be matched by issuing encouraging signs." He pointed out that "the State of Kuwait and in light of the difficult conditions resulting from conflicts in our region supports all efforts to embrace tolerance and inculcating a culture of peace so as to promote human rights and equality of all stemming from the Arab-Islamic culture." The Kuwaiti ambassador also stressed that Kuwait condemns terrorism and violent extremism in all its forms and whatever its motives or justifications.

Arabs slam US bill

Meanwhile, Chairman of the Arab Parliament Ahmad Bin Al-Jarwan has condemned the US Congress adoption of a bill known as the legislation for "justice against sponsors of terrorism." This bill contradicts the principle of States' sovereignty, as stipulated by international laws and the UN Charter. It is a dangerous precedent at the level of principles and bases of States' relations, for States cannot meddle in other States' domestic affairs, he added. He warned that such a law would foment tensions among States and undermine the global war against terrorism. He called on Arab League member States to close ranks in face of "agendas aimed at aggravating tensions in the region." The bill basically grants families of victims of 9/11 to sue Saudi Arabia, charging the Kingdom of "sponsoring terrorism."

OIC warns

Also, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has warned against a "short-sighted and incomprehensible" bill pending in the US congress, that allows victims of the September 11 attacks to sue foreign governments in US courts. "The Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism" (JASTA) act could be detrimental to international relations and risks inducing a global economic slump," OIC Secretary General Iyad Madani said in a statement. Moreover, Madani noted that the "US is obligated, as a super power, to promote peace and security all across the globe." The OIC Secretary General also said that he is hopeful that the US Congress would reconsider passing the bill, "which threatens global peace and security." On Friday, the US House unanimously passed the bill, which would allow victims of the September 11 attacks to sue foreign governments linked to terrorism in US courts. —Agencies

EID SECURITY MEASURES

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: As part of the security measures taken during the Eid holidays, and upon the instructions from the Deputy PM, Minister of Interior and Acting Minister of Defense Sheikh Mohammed Al-Khaled, Mol's Acting General Security Director Major General Ibrahim Al-Tarrah led an inspection campaign to check the security measures taken in various shopping malls. Also, Mol's Undersecretary Lt General Suleiman Al-Fahad recently visited Kuwait's Hajj mission's headquarters in Makkah. In another development, Mol's Assistant Undersecretary for Land Borders Security Major General Fuad Saleh Al-Athari toured the northern and southern land border units on the first day of the Eid where he met the security forces posted there.

Fake info, photo

Mol's Relations and Security Media Department said that the photos and information circulating on social media networks about the installation of new speed cameras in Kuwait are completely untrue and

that those photos were not taken in Kuwait. The department also explained that the traffic department had only installed 180 special sensors a year ago to measure traffic flows on certain roads as a means to collect data for its database.



Asian suspect nabbed

A Lebanese was recently arrested on arrival at Kuwait International Airport. 350 grams of hashish was found in his possession. Security sources said that officers had received a tip off concerning the attempt to smuggle the illicit drugs into the country. A case was filed and the suspect was referred to relevant authorities.

Tanker driver injured

A water tanker driver was seriously injured when he lost control of his truck in Amghara. Firemen managed to free the driver and rushed him to a nearby hospital for treatment.

Workers protest

Commenting on news about a demonstration carried out by a number of Asians along Abdali highway, Mol's Relations and Security Media Department said that Jahra patrol officers rushed to the scene and managed to control the demonstrators. The department explained that the demonstrators who are working for an oil company rallied to demand for a First Aid Unit on the site, after one of their colleagues died on site.

Kuwaiti arrested

A Kuwaiti working at the Airport's Passport Department was recently arrested for facilitating the departure of a number of illegal residents and people from other nationalities using Kuwaiti passports. Security sources said that the

'illegal' passengers confessed their crimes and led the police to the suspect who allegedly helped them in return for huge sums of money.



Friday Times

International

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2016

UN urges Syria to allow aid access

11



Crimea holds vote to Russian parliament

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American jihadist recalls his turn from extremism

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NEW YORK: In this Sept 11, 2016 file photo, Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton waves after leaving an apartment building. — AP

CLINTON BACK ON CAMPAIGN TRAIL

AFTER BOUT WITH PNEUMONIA, HEALTH QUERIES IN SPOTLIGHT

WHITE PLAINS: Hillary Clinton returns to the campaign trail yesterday following a bout of pneumonia that sidelined her for three days and revived questions about both the Democratic nominee and Republican Donald Trump's transparency regarding their health. "I'm really glad that I did finally follow my doctor's orders and take some days to rest instead of just trying to keep powering through, which I think is a common experience for people," Clinton told the "Tom Joyner Morning Show" in an interview broadcast yesterday morning.

Clinton and Trump have both released additional information about their health this week, though the Democrat provided far more detail in the letter she made public from her doctor. Trump, on the other hand, provided a summary from a recent physical to Dr. Mehmet Oz while taping an episode of Oz's show. Trump said on the show that standing at a podium delivering speeches at campaign rallies is one of the ways he stays healthy on the campaign trail. He said giving a speech is "a lot of work" and requires "a lot of motion."

Penchant for privacy

Trump's campaign said the Republican would release the physical summary yesterday. The main source of information about Trump's health thus far has come from a widely mocked letter from his longtime physician declaring he would be the healthiest president in history. While Clinton has released more information than Trump - both about her health and financial history - her campaign's handling of her pneumonia underscored her penchant for privacy, something that has contributed to the public's lack of trust in the former secretary of state. With less than two months from Election Day, Clinton's standing with Americans has contributed to a race that is tighter than both parties expected.

Clinton will spend the new few days campaigning in Greensboro, North Carolina, and speaking to a Hispanic group in Washington. It's her first public appearance since Sunday, when she abruptly left a 9/11 memorial service in New York after feeling becoming dizzy and dehydrated. After a video emerged of her stum-

bling and being held up by aides, the campaign revealed she had been diagnosed with pneumonia days earlier.

Jennifer Palmieri, Clinton's communications director, said the candidate's break from the campaign trail helped her "sharpen the final argument she will present to voters in these closing weeks." Clinton's remarks Thursday will focus on lifting up children and families, as the campaign tries to break through with a more positive message. The new letter from Clinton's doctor stated that a chest scan revealed she had "mild, non-contagious bacterial pneumonia." Dr Lisa Bardack, chair of internal medicine at CareMount Medical in Mount Kisco, New York, said Clinton was treated with a 10-day course of Levaquin, an antibiotic used to treat infections.

'Recovering well'

Bardack said Clinton is up to date on all vaccines, including two given to help prevent pneumonia - Prevnar and Pneumovax. The letter did not state when she received those vaccines. "She is recovering well with antibiotics

and rest," wrote Bardack, who also authored a letter about Clinton's health released in July 2015. "She continues to remain healthy and fit to serve as President of the United States."

Clinton, 68, has blood pressure of 100 over 70. Her total cholesterol was 189; her LDL or "bad" cholesterol was 103, and her HDL or "good" cholesterol was 56 - all within healthy levels and not signaling the need for any medications. She has also had a normal mammogram and breast ultrasound, according to the letter. She takes thyroid and allergy medicines and the blood thinner Coumadin, prescribed as a preventative after she suffered a blood clot resulting from a 2012 concussion.

The blood clot, which was in a vein in the space between the brain and the skull behind the right ear, led Clinton to spend a few days in New York-Presbyterian Hospital and take a monthlong absence from the State Department for treatment. The letter from Clinton's doctor made no mention of her weight, a key part of any medical exam, nor did a similar letter released last year. — AP

SAUDI PRINCE WARNS IRAN AGAINST FORCE

DUBAI: A senior Saudi official, responding to Iranian criticism of Riyadh's management of the hajj pilgrimage, urged Iran to end what he called wrong attitudes towards Arabs and warned it against any use of force in its rivalry with the kingdom. Mecca province governor Prince Khaled Al-Faisal, in remarks likely to be seen as a reference to Iran, added that the orderly conduct of the pilgrimage this year "is a response to all the lies and slanders made against the kingdom".

The remarks carried by the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) on Wednesday evening

follow an escalating war of words between Shiite Muslim Iran and Sunni Saudi Arabia since a crush at the annual hajj pilgrimage a year ago in which hundreds of pilgrims, many of them Iranians, died. SPA quoted Prince Khaled as telling journalists his message to the Iranian leadership was "I pray to God Almighty to guide them and to deter them from their transgression and their wrong attitudes toward their fellow Muslim among the Arabs in Iraq, Syria, Yemen and around the world". "But if they are preparing an army to invade us, we are not easily taken

by someone who would make war on us."

"When we desire, and with the help of God Almighty, we will deter every aggressor and will never relent in protecting this holy land and our dear country. No one can defile any part from our country if any one of us remains on the face of the earth." No top Iranian leader has called for war with Saudi Arabia, something neither country wants. But last year's hajj disaster, and the execution in January of dissident Saudi Shi'ite cleric Nimr Al-Nimr, triggered months of scathing Iranian criticism of the kingdom.

Riyadh broke off relations with Tehran after its embassy there was attacked by Iranians protesting against Nimr's death. Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guards promised "harsh revenge" for Nimr's death. Iran blamed the 2015 hajj disaster on Saudi incompetence, and Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Sept. 5 said some of the Iranians who died had been "murdered" by Saudi Arabia. He said Muslims should not let Saudi rulers escape responsibility for "crimes" he said they had committed in Arab conflicts. — Reuters

JORDAN'S BROTHERHOOD EYE GREATER CLOUT IN NEW VOTE

AMMAN: After years of self-imposed political exile, Jordan's influential Muslim Brotherhood is gearing up to compete in next week's general election aiming to reestablish its role as a major parliamentary force. The vote comes as Jordan—a key Western ally long lauded for its relative stability—finds itself under pressure from neighboring conflicts and ruffled by domestic issues, including stubborn unemployment and growing radicalization.

Brotherhood officials and analysts say the September 20 vote will pose a key test of the ability of the state to hold a fair election and of its willingness to accept a result that may boost the Islamists. "All we want are credible elections that truly represent the will of the people, irrespective of how we will be represented in parliament," the Brotherhood's second-in-command Zaki Bani Rsheid told AFP. "Jordan must make the most of this occasion... to rebuild citizen confidence in the electoral process and state institutions."

The Islamic Action Front, the political wing of the Brotherhood, was once the largest party in parliament, winning 22 out of 80 seats in 1989. But the Brotherhood itself has been weakened in the wake of the Arab Spring uprisings. Authorities consider it an illegal organization because its license was not renewed in line with a law on political parties adopted in 2014. Dozens of Brotherhood offices have been shut this year. The IAF boycotted elections in 2010 and 2013 in protest at the electoral system, which it said weakened parties in favour of tribal and other pro-government candidates. Its decision to take part in next week's election after Jordan amended the electoral law in March is seen by analysts as a test and a way of regaining influence after years of ostracism and infighting. "The Brotherhood wants... to secure seats in parliament in order to rebuild its legitimacy and renew contacts with the government," said Oreib Rentawi, head of Al-Quds Centre for Political Studies.

Mounting crises

Although it has avoided the violent upheaval of some Arab states since 2011's wave of popular uprisings, Jordan has a growing list of issues that could spark insecurity. A key member of a US-led coalition battling jihadists in Syria and Iraq, Jordan is, according to the UN, home to more than 600,000 Syrian refugees. Amman puts the number at 1.4 million. Unemployment is running at 14 percent and last month the International Monetary Fund approved a \$723 million three-year line of credit to Jordan to support economic and financial reforms.

Amman instituted some reforms following Brotherhood-led protests, including amending its electoral law to allow political parties to submit lists and reserving 15 seats for women. But the IAF wants further change, including a constitutional amendment to allow parliament to choose a government, rather than having the king name a prime minister, as is currently the case. Rentawi said he expected the Islamists to win 20 out of the 130 seats in next week's election.

Mohamed Abu Romman, a researcher at the University of Jordan's Centre for Strategic Studies, agreed and said the vote could be a "dangerous test" for King Abdullah, who may find his parliament bolstered by Brotherhood allies keen on more reform. — AFP

UN URGES SYRIA GOVERNMENT TO ALLOW URGENT AID ACCESS

FRAGILE CEASEFIRE EXTENDED FOR 48 HOURS

ALEPPO: The United Nations urged Syria's government yesterday to allow immediate aid deliveries to hunger-stricken civilians after a fragile ceasefire was extended for 48 hours by Russia and the United States. In a sign of renewed tensions between the two powers, who back opposing sides in the conflict, key regime ally Moscow accused Washington of failing to meet its obligations under the truce. The UN said 20 trucks loaded with aid had crossed into a buffer zone between Turkey and Syria, voicing hope the supplies could be delivered to besieged rebel-held districts of Aleppo city on Friday.

"They've been waiting and sleeping at the border now for 48 hours. So they could go on a minute's notice," said Jan Egeland, head of the UN humanitarian taskforce for Syria. The ceasefire deal calls for the demilitarization of the key Castello Road into the city, and Russia said yesterday afternoon that Syrian armed forces were "fulfilling their obligations and have started a gradual withdrawal" from the route.

Washington said late Wednesday that US Secretary of State John Kerry and his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov had spoken and agreed to prolong the ceasefire which began on Monday. But hours later Russian military spokesman Igor Konashenkov slammed the US for what he called "rhetorical fog" intended "to hide the fact that it is not fulfilling its part of the obligations". "As of the third day (of the truce), only the Syrian army is observing the regime of silence. At the same time, the 'moderate opposition' led by the US is increasing the amount of attacks on residential districts," Konashenkov said.

'The clock is ticking'

The truce, agreed after marathon US-Russia talks in Geneva last week, is part of the latest bid to end a five-year conflict that has killed more than 300,000 people. It aims to halt fighting between Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad's forces and rebel factions, but does not include jihadists like the Islamic State group (IS).

The UN's Syria envoy Staffan de Mistura said yesterday that the truce was holding "by and large". But promised authorization from Damascus for large-scale humanitarian convoys had



GENEVA: UN's Syria envoy Staffan de Mistura gestures during a press briefing following a meeting of the International Syria Support Group's Humanitarian Access Task Force yesterday at the UN Offices

not yet been received. "This is something that is required to happen immediately," de Mistura told reporters in Geneva. East Aleppo, where around 250,000 civilians are besieged by government forces, is a major concern for humanitarian organizations.

The ceasefire extension "provides us a critical window of opportunity to assist the people in need in east Aleppo," said David Swanson, a spokesman for the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. "That being said, the clock is ticking and time is of the essence." Forty trucks carrying food for 80,000 people were at the Syrian-Turkish border waiting for the green light to go to Aleppo about 70 kilometers away, said Swanson.

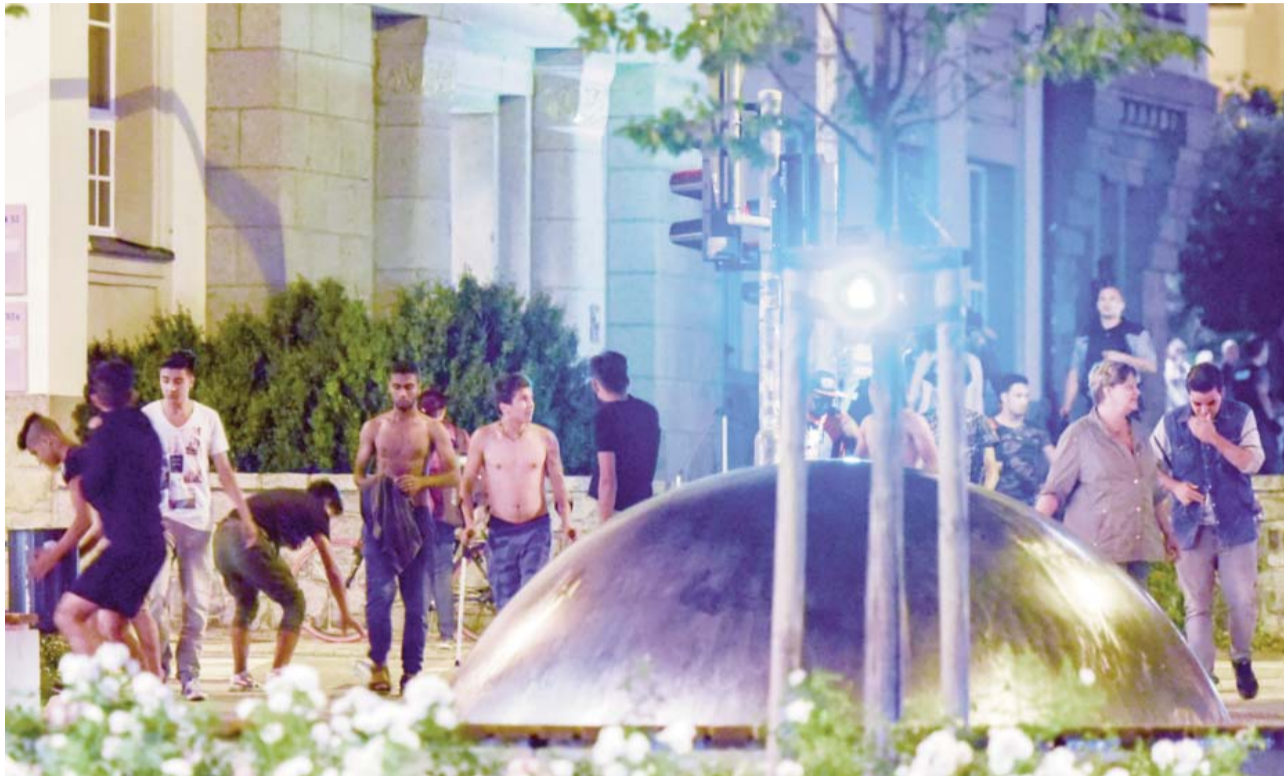
'We're going to starve'

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based monitor, had said earlier yesterday that government and rebel fighters were still on the Castello Road and the army was unwilling to pull back until the opposition forces did so. Eastern Aleppo is in desperate need of humanitarian aid after weeks of heavy

fighting, and a government siege that has lasted most of the past two months, with no aid entering since early July.

Markets in east Aleppo have little to sell besides locally grown aubergines, parsley and other herbs. "We were dying from shelling before, and now we're going to starve to death," said Abu Ibrahim, 53. The deal calls for the truce to be renewed every 48 hours, and for Washington and Moscow to begin unprecedented joint targeting of jihadists like IS and former Al-Qaeda affiliate Fateh al-Sham Front if it lasts a week. There remains deep scepticism about whether the truce will hold.

The opposition has yet to officially sign on, and hours before the ceasefire began Assad said he was committed to recovering all of Syria. France yesterday called for Washington to disclose details of the truce deal to its allies bombing jihadists in the war-torn country. If the deal does hold, it could open the door to new peace talks to resolve the conflict, with Russia saying the UN envoy could invite government and opposition representatives to new talks "at the very beginning of October". — AFP



BAUTZEN: In this Sept 14, 2016 photo refugees and asylum-seekers stand on the square by the Kornmarkt shopping center. — AP

FAR-RIGHT GROUP, MIGRANTS FIGHT IN EAST GERMAN TOWN

'I'M SHOCKED AND VERY WORRIED ABOUT THE ESCALATION'

BERLIN: Dozens of police officers intervened as groups of far-right Germans and young asylum-seekers clashed in an eastern German town that has previously seen racist incidents, officials said yesterday. Around 80 Germans and around 20 migrants attacked each other Wednesday night in Bautzen, a town between Dresden and the Polish border, local police spokesman Thomas Knaup said.

Officers trying to separate the groups as they brawled in a town square were assailed with wooden sticks and bottles thrown by some of the asylum-seekers, police said. The far-right protesters shout-

ed nationalist slogans and followed the asylum-seekers back to their shelter while police tried to keep the groups apart. Police used pepper spray and batons both to protect themselves and to in self-defense and also to separate the two sides, authorities said.

Later, some rioters threw stones at an ambulance, preventing it from reaching the shelter to attend to an injured migrant. Police said they were trying to identify the individuals who participated in the fighting. Town officials said it was also not clear who initiated the confrontation. "It wasn't anarchy, but there

was at least a chaotic phase that I would say lasted between 45 and 90 minutes," Bautzen's head of police, Uwe Kilz, said. "Then peace was restored."

'Worried about escalation'

Bautzen Mayor Alexander Ahrens condemned the violence and vowed to deploy more police and social workers to prevent future incidents. Ahrens said there had been problems between far-right German youths and young asylum-seekers during the last two weeks in the Kornmarkt square. "I'm shocked and very worried about the escalation," Ahrens wrote on Facebook. "I sharply condemn the growing violence in confrontations between the various groups."

Bautzen officials said that most of the roughly 20 asylum-seekers involved in the brawl were unaccompanied minors and that they had imposed a 7 p.m. curfew and an alcohol ban on their shelter following Wednesday's violence. They described the 80 far-right Germans involved in the hostilities as young women and men who were drunk.

Saxony Interior Minister Markus Ulbig said the state would send additional police officers to Bautzen and there would be no tolerance for further excesses of violence like on Wednesday night. In February, onlookers celebrated as a fire damaged a former hotel that was being turned into a refugee home in Bautzen, a case of suspected arson. And when German President Joachim Gauck visited Bautzen in March to talk about democracy, he was insulted by some locals.

Hundreds of thousands asylum-seekers arrived in Germany last year, leading to tensions in some regions. The state of Saxony, where Bautzen is located, has seen several anti-migrant incidents, although it has one of the lowest percentages of foreigners in the country. — AP

ARAB ISRAELI MINISTER SPARKS CONTROVERSY

JERUSALEM: An Arab Israeli lawmaker has caused an uproar after describing ailing Nobel peace laureate Shimon Peres as covered "head to toe" in Palestinian blood. Former Israeli president and Prime Minister Peres, 93, remained in serious condition yesterday, according to his doctor, after suffering a major stroke two days earlier.

As messages of concern and wishes for his recovery flowed from public leaders at home and abroad, MP Basel Ghattas posted on his Facebook a scathing attack on the veteran leader's record in the conflict with the Palestinians. Peres, he wrote in Arabic, was one of the "strongest pillars of the Zionist colonialist settlement project and one of the most despicable, cruel, radical and long-living."

Arab Israelis who represent about 17.5 percent of Israel's population are the descendants of Palestinians who remained on their land after the creation

of Israel in 1948. Although they are citizens of the Jewish state they largely identify as Palestinians. Peres, who became director general of the nascent defense ministry at just 29 years old, once hawkishly rejected any compromise with hostile Arab states.

He said he became a dove after 1977, when Egyptian president Anwar Sadat made a historic visit to Jerusalem, leading to the first Arab-Israeli peace treaty. "Our blood covers him from head to toe," wrote Ghattas, a member of the Joint List Arab coalition. "Let us... remember his real essence as a tyrant and a direct administrator of the crimes and war crimes carried out against our rights."

Peres won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1994 along with Yitzhak Rabin and Yasser Arafat for his role in negotiating the Oslo accords. But he was also an early backer of Israeli settlement in the West Bank after its occupation in the 1967 Six Day War. — AFP

WITH BREXIT, EU PONDERERS FUTURE

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia: If Britain long felt like a sore festering at the heart of European unity, its planned departure has made one thing clear - it's far from the only malaise for the vision of a common European Union future. After the June referendum vote in Britain to quit the EU, it should have felt for many of the other member states like a brake was released and they were free to move forward with their joint venture. Instead, 28-minus-1 leaders will be meeting at the centuries-old Bratislava Castle on Friday with one question on their minds - how to keep everybody else moving, and if not in lockstep then more or less in the same direction?

"It would be a fatal error to assume that the negative result in the U.K. referendum represents a specifically British issue," EU Council President Donald Tusk wrote to the 27 leaders ahead of the summit. Losing a member for the first time - a financial powerhouse at that - would be difficult to swallow at the best of times. But Brexit comes on top of a refugee emergency that EU nations simply cannot agree how to manage. Countries in the east - Hungary, Slovakia, the Czech Republic and others - have openly opposed proposed solutions coming out of Brussels and even defied the wishes of their neighbors.

Economic woes

Economic woes weigh heavily too. Greece's place in the euro single currency has been called into question, and created a major rift between pro-austerity countries led by Germany and countries with more social-minded governments. Spain and Portugal face the threat of fines for failing to bring their budgets into line while France has avoided penalties, creating more strains. Meanwhile extremist attacks in Paris, Brussels and Germany combined with the lack of intelligence-sharing between member countries have fueled the fears of citizens for their safety and undermined confidence that the EU can provide a solution.

It's all been fodder for the far-right. Only on Wednesday French far-right leader Marine Le Pen promised a referendum on France's place in the EU should she seize the presidency next year. Against this backdrop, Tusk is hoping for an "honest assessment" of how the EU got itself into this fundamental political quagmire where distrust has replaced half a century of optimism as the EU expanded from a core of a half-dozen west European neighbors to a wealthy group of 28 nations making up the world's largest trading bloc. As he chairs the summit, Tusk will be counting on frank, even blunt exchanges. Increasingly, politeness has gone out the window as one crisis has been heaped onto the next. "We must rectify a number of things in order to preserve what is best," Tusk wrote.

The one-day Bratislava summit should be the first in a number of confidence-building meetings where a roadmap should be set up to culminate in a March summit in the Italian capital when the 60th anniversary of the EU's founding Treaty of Rome will be marked - or, in the best of circumstances, celebrated. These days, though, hand-wringing is more in order than hand-shaking.

Human rights issues

Just this week, the foreign minister of founding member Luxembourg suggested Hungary should be suspended or expelled from the EU over its dealings with refugees and other human rights issues. Immediately, Hungary's foreign minister retorted that Jean Asselborn was "a frivolous figure" who "has long excluded himself from among the politicians who can be taken seriously." The weeks preceding the Bratislava summit have seen an endless array of regional meetings of government leaders, hoping to gather some critical mass to push through their views on how the EU should be run in the future, along either geographical or ideological lines, or a mix of both.

Tusk said there is really is little choice but for things to change, given the increasing discontent with the EU's centralized institutions and the sense that unelected officials in Brussels are dictating policy to the member states. One thing rarely changes, though. At one vital point, France and Germany, the founding political and industrial engine of the EU, get together to set out the lines for others to follow. It was the same yesterday, when German Chancellor Angela Merkel met with French President Francois Hollande.

In these troubled times, though, with Merkel under pressure for her welcoming migration policy and Hollande for his sputtering economy, the aura of both has dimmed. Uncertainty and even fear abound, and a strong vision for the future of the European project is needed to stop others weighing the benefits of heading for the exit door. "People in Europe want to know if the political elites are capable of restoring control over events and processes which overwhelm, disorientate, and sometimes terrify them," Tusk wrote to the leaders. "Today many people, not only in the UK, think that being part of the European Union stands in the way of stability and security." — AP

CRIMEA HOLDS VOTE TO RUSSIAN PARLIAMENT

MOSCOW STILL HOLDS FIRM GRIP IN REGION'S FIRST ELECTION

SIMFEROPOL: Shaded by cypress trees on Crimea's Black Sea shore, a group of locals watch as folk singers in tall headdresses boom out a patriotic song about Russia with the lyrics: "I have no other motherland." Two-and-a-half years after Moscow annexed the strategic peninsula from Ukraine, residents are gearing up to vote Sunday in their first polls to elect deputies to Russia's national parliament. The ballot in Crimea-not recognized by Kiev or the international community-looks set to bind the region still closer to Moscow as the new pro-Kremlin elite cements its grip and opposition is silenced. Andrei Kozenko once worked in the local administration when Ukraine was in charge but now the long-standing pro-Moscow activist is running for the Kremlin's United Russia party and pushing to get the vote out. "A high turnout shows the level of support for our president Vladimir Putin," Kozenko, who has been serving as deputy speaker of Crimea's local parliament, told AFP. "We will strive to tell every resident to come and vote and in this way show our Crimean unity." In the time since Moscow took over, the situation for ordinary Crimeans has not been easy.

Pummeled by sanctions

The sunbaked peninsula-where mainly Russian visitors pack out the beaches-has been pummeled by biting EU and US sanctions, tourism has been hit and it is largely impossible to pay with Western bank cards. United Russia's campaign attempts to fire up a sense of defiance among local residents against the punitive measures by the West. On billboards the face of Kremlin-installed regional head



CRIMEA: From right, Crimean leader Sergei Aksyonov, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Crimean Museum director Tatyana Umrikhina and Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev walk in Kerch. — AFP

Sergei Aksyonov stares down from under the slogan: "We'll break through any blockades."

Russia's takeover of Crimea in March 2014 came quick on the heels of the ouster of Kremlin-backed leader Viktor Yanukovich by protesters in Kiev, as ex-Soviet Ukraine appeared to be hurtling definitively out of Moscow's grasp. Putin sent out thousands of troops without insignia around the region-where Russian is the primary language and the Kremlin's Black Sea Fleet has long been based-before a referendum to join Moscow was staged. Yet after the wave of euphoria among many Crimeans and Russians over the takeover of a region they long viewed as their property,

there is little sign of excitement over the upcoming polls. Speaking to residents of ageing Soviet-era apartment blocks, Kozenko faces a barrage of complaints on high tariffs for water on the drought-prone peninsula, poor cellphone coverage and lack of access to reasonable mortgages.

Silenced opposition

But while the pro-Kremlin politicians may be facing gripes from disgruntled locals-they're not facing much opposition, as Kozenko freely admits. "Thank goodness, today there is no political fighting," he says, comparing the situation to the rough and tumble contests under

Ukrainian rule. Beyond United Russia the only other election posters that are on display are the Communists and the ultra-nationalist Liberal Democratic Party-both loyal to Putin. But any genuine opposition-let alone opponents of Russian rule-have been completely excluded. Since seizing control, Aksyonov's authorities have harshly suppressed the Crimean Tatar indigenous Muslim group that largely opposed Moscow's takeover. Leaders of the community, who make up some 14 percent of its population, have called for a boycott of the polls. Outside the Supreme Court in Simferopol, several dozen Crimean Tatars stand in support of the deputy chairman of their banned Mejlis assembly, Ilmi Umerov, who has just spent three weeks in a psychiatric hospital. Umerov was subjected to forced testing-slammed by rights groups — and he now faces trial on extremism charges for expressing his view that Crimea is part of Ukraine. "Of course we don't recognise and won't participate in the elections to the State Duma," Umerov told AFP. "On the one hand it's legitimisation of Russia in Crimea, and on the other hand it's supporting the authorities who repress our fellow citizens," said another community leader, Nariman Dzhehlyal.

Statue hugging

Pro-Russian officials brush off the criticism and displays of support for Moscow are not hard to find. In the main city of Simferopol a woman hugs a statue of a Russian soldier in full battle dress that was put up this summer to celebrate the Russian troops who took over the Crimea. — AFP

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AMERICAN JIHADIST RECALLS HIS TURN FROM EXTREMISM

WASHINGTON: He urged extremists to kill in the name of Allah. But Jesse Morton says he's now a different man, countering in Washington the very same ideology that brought him in the shadow of Al-Qaeda. A Pennsylvania native who got out of prison just a year and a half ago and now conducts research at George Washington University, Morton had a rough childhood. His mother beat him, and no one else cared for him. He lost trust in society. He left home at the age of 16, lived on the street and sold drugs. "I had no sense of belonging or American identity, I was seeking something, anything," said Morton, 38, recalling those early days. But his is a redemption story: He offers a rare glimpse into the recruitment of a jihadist who eventually found his way back into mainstream society from radical Islam. Morton converted to Islam when an ultraconservative Muslim friend asked him to recite a few words in Arabic—words whose meaning he did not know—during a standoff when they were surrounded by police. Those words were the shahada, the Muslim profession of faith in which one declares "there is no god but God, and Mohammed is his prophet." "I recited them and we didn't get in trouble (with the police) so I thought, 'Wow, this is like magic,'" Morton said. Sometime later, during a stay at a prison in Richmond, Virginia, he learned to become a "real Muslim." "In one sense, it was indoctrination from above, in another sense, it was me seeking out something and finding... meaning inside of this worldview," said Morton, who continues to practice his Muslim faith, although he has renounced extremism.

Education was key

During his jihadist days, he frequented the Islamic Thinkers Society, a group that is an offshoot of the Al-Muhajiroun extremism that seeks to restore an Islamic caliphate. Back then, he said, he had "direct contact" with Abdullah al-Faisal, a radical Jamaican imam who spent four years in prison in London. He recruited people to his cause outside mosques. "We were looking for lions," Morton recalled.

Morton got out prison shortly after the September 11, 2001 attacks—which he praised at the time—and took the name Younus Abdullah Muhammed. In late 2007, he co-founded "Revolution Muslim" which would relay Al-Qaeda messages online. Among the Islamic radicals who ended up being influenced by the group was Colleen LaRose—also known as "Jihad Jane"—an American woman arrested in late 2009 as she was plotting to murder Swedish cartoonist Lars Vilks, who was targeted for drawing a cartoon of the Prophet Mohammed.

Police went on high alert in 2009, when Revolution Muslim threatened to kill the writers of popular animated satirical series "South Park" for an episode that featured the Prophet Mohammed in a bear suit. In early 2010, Morton fled to Morocco, where he was arrested by the FBI in October 2011 after a stint in Moroccan jails. Education was the key to his turn from the path of jihadist thinking. While held in solitary confinement, a guard let him visit the prison library at night. Morton says he read a lot, including Enlightenment writers such as Jean-Jacques Rousseau. "I started to realize that these principles are universal, humanist," he said, adding that they "allow people to be free." The FBI was keen on obtaining intelligence from Morton's extremist past and his contacts in that world, so he cooperated with the US federal police agency from his cell. "They made me realize that they were only protecting the public and not waging a war against Islam," Morton said, adding that his contributions led to a "very successful series of counterterrorism operations." — AFP



WASHINGTON DC: Jesse Morton, a reformed, former extremist who was once a prominent radicalizer in the West, is seen at The George Washington University. — AFP



CANTON, Ohio: Supporters cheer as Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump walks offstage during a rally. — AP

FOR SOME AMERICANS, TRUMP IS 'LESSER EVIL'

PERSPECTIVES VARY ALONG AMERICAN RUST BELT STATES

BARBERTON: For some voters, Democrat Hillary Clinton in November is the clear choice for the White House—after all, she certainly has more political experience than Republican rival Donald Trump. But a trip through the American Rust Belt states of Pennsylvania and Ohio quickly reveals that for others, such logic doesn't hold much sway. "Like anyone else, I have my misgivings about Trump," admits Alex Morton, a 67-year-old real estate attorney who voted twice for Democratic president Bill Clinton.

So, isn't Hillary the natural choice? No, says Morton. As it turns out, family values matter. "If she had been an honest woman, she probably would have left him when she found out that he was a philanderer," Morton said. "I would have had more respect for her if she had left her husband, but she didn't, so she's basically a completely dishonest person." In Barberton, a small town not far from Akron in Ohio, one of the key battleground states in the November 8 battle for the White House, there are certainly some Democrats.

Pamela Mignano, who is 61, unemployed and on disability, came with her partner Alan Buckley to the town's Labor Day parade in early September. "Mr Trump sucks, just like his hair," Mignano said. "Out of the two evils, she's the least." "Hillary pretty much ran the country when Bill was in office, because he was too busy out with his cigars and his whores," she added. Buckley, a 66-year-old artist who carries a gun, interrupts her to say, "I don't care for either one." Mignano replies: "Me neither. We're in trouble either way."

This rejection of both candidates shines through in opinion polls, which

show that a majority of Americans have a negative view of both Clinton and Trump, and in the struggling Rust Belt, where many have fallen on hard times. In southern Ohio, which is more rural and conservative, many Republicans shrug when asked what they think of their billionaire White House hopeful. "I wish he was a little more couth. If my husband did that, I'd be whacking on him," Tracy Pierson, a 61-year-old cook at a golf course, said of Trump's brash campaign style. "We have nothing to lose to go all in a different direction," she however added.

Gloomy mood

In this part of Ohio, the population more or less looks the same: Everyone is white, lawns are immaculately maintained, the Stars and Stripes adorns most homes, and sport-utility vehicles or pickup trucks are the norm, parked on gravel driveways. Some Trump signs are on lawns—never any Clinton signs here. Don Krepps, a retired construction worker who lives alone with his dog, is one who is making his support for Trump known.

Krepps says he has always considered himself a Democrat but now considers himself an independent. He has never voted in a presidential election, though he says he liked Ronald Reagan, the Republican president in the 1980s. But this year, he will head to the polls. "Just because of Hillary—that's why I've decided to vote for Donald, because I just don't want Hillary to get in," he told AFP. At his house, Fox News—the network of choice for many conservatives—blares in the background. Why is he changing sides this year?

Too much crime, too many immigrants who come to the US and "kill innocent people," he says. The neighboring town of Carrollton only sees a handful of crimes a year, but Krepps isn't swayed by the statistics that run contrary to his view. Krepps's sister and brother-in-law live nearby, atop a hill. Mary Madison doesn't say much but her husband Jim says this election is the first time in his life that he doesn't know who he'll vote for. "This is a sad commentary on us as Americans," he says.

Jim Madison doesn't believe in Trump but he is angry about what he sees as Democratic President Barack Obama's costly health care reform—and by extension blames Clinton. In Steubenville, Marc Barnes, a 23-year-old professor of philosophy, says he finds the whole campaign rather comical. "It's like the two people that no one would want at a party decided to run for president, and the nation is looking on awkwardly, wishing they would leave the room, but they won't," Barnes said. Barnes, who is a staunch Catholic, supported Clinton's one-time rival Bernie Sanders but says he cannot vote for Clinton because she is pro-choice on the issue of abortion.

He says he may consider a third-party candidate. In town after town in the Rust Belt, the story is the same: people pull no punches in criticizing the former secretary of state and first lady. Liar and criminal are among the choice terms they call her. Complaints about her use of a private email server while secretary of state, and her handling of the deadly attack on the US mission in Benghazi are common. Sometimes, people use more vulgar language. — AFP



FIRT PIERCE: In this photo provided by the St. Lucie Sheriff's Office, firefighters work at the scene of a fire at the Islamic Center of Fort Pierce on Monday, Sept 12, 2016. —AP

SUSPECT IN MOSQUE FIRE MADE ANTI-ISLAMIC FACEBOOK POSTS

FIRE COINCIDED WITH 9/11 AND EID AL-ADHA HOLIDAYS

FORT PIERCE: About two months before Joseph Michael Schreiber allegedly tried to burn down a mosque sometimes attended by Orlando nightclub shooter Omar Mateen, he posted on Facebook that "All Islam is radical" and that all Muslims should be treated as terrorists and criminals. Schreiber, 32, was arrested without incident Wednesday afternoon and was being interrogated by investigators looking into the fire set late Sunday at the Islamic Center of Fort Pierce, said Maj. David Thompson of the St Lucie County Sheriff's Office.

A July post placed on Facebook by Schreiber, who is Jewish, stated that, "IF AMERICA truly wants peace and safety and pursuit of happiness they should consider all forms of ISLAM as radical. ... ALL ISLAM IS RADICAL, and should be considered TERRORIST AND CRIMINALS (sic) and all hoo (sic) participate in such activity should be found guilty of WAR CRIM (sic) until law and order is restored in this beautiful free country."

Thompson told a news conference that Schreiber, who has a criminal record, was taken into custody on a street in Fort Pierce by authorities acting on tips from members of the community and aided by surveillance video taken from the mosque and elsewhere. He said the arson charge, coupled with a hate crime enhancement under Florida law, carries a sentence of up to 30 years in prison. Thompson said detectives were still questioning Schreiber on Wednesday evening, and he didn't say if Schreiber had a lawyer.

Social media posts

The fire was set late Sunday on the 15th anniversary of the Sept 11 terrorist attacks. The blaze also coincided with the Muslim holiday Eid Al-Adha. No one was injured in the fire, which burned a 10-by-10-foot hole

in the roof at the back of the mosque's main building and blackened its eaves with soot. Thompson said a search warrant was executed at Schreiber's home, where investigators reported finding evidence linked to the arson, as well as anti-Islamic social media posts.

Wilfredo Amr Ruiz, a spokesman for the Council on American-Islamic Relations-Florida, said Schreiber "obviously doesn't know about the efforts our community is engaged in with our cousins, the Jews, not only in Florida but throughout the nation." Omar Saleh, an attorney for CAIR, described both Schreiber and Mateen as "degenerates" and "punks."

"Just like on June 12, when I was stressing that Mateen's actions do not speak on behalf of Islam, I know that whatever religion Mr. Schreiber is, his actions do not speak on behalf of his religion," Saleh said. Mateen was killed by police after opening fire at the Pulse nightclub on June 12 in a rampage that left 49 victims dead and 53 wounded, making it the worst mass shooting in modern US history. Mateen professed allegiance to the Islamic State group. His father is among roughly 100 people who attend the mosque.

Previous sentences

Schreiber was previously sentenced twice to state prison for theft, according to records from the Florida Department of Corrections. The records show he served his first sentence from March 2008 to July 2009 and his second from June 2010 to August 2014. A weekend surveillance video from the mosque showed a man on a motorcycle approaching the building with a bottle of liquid and some papers, then leaving when there was a flash and shaking his hand as though he may have burned it,

Thompson said. The first 911 calls were made about 45 minutes later after the fire had spread to the attic. It took about four-and-a-half hours for firefighters to extinguish the blaze.

The FBI and the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives joined the investigation into the fire. Sheriff's officials had released the video and asked for the public's help in identifying the arsonist. Rabbi Bruce Benson, a chaplain with the Port St. Lucie Police Department, was outside Schreiber's home Wednesday night. He said Schreiber attended his synagogue for about a month last spring to study the Torah, but left little impression, and gave no indication he might act violently in the future.

Benson said Schreiber's father showed up at his office Wednesday afternoon after his son was arrested, even though he wasn't a member of his synagogue. "I guess he didn't know where else to go," Benson said, adding that Schreiber's parents are "shocked, just like any of us would be if it were our child." Benson said his reform synagogue, Temple Beth El Israel, has tried unsuccessfully in the past to reach out to the mosque.

"We would welcome the opportunity," Benson said. "They're a community feeling under attack. If we could all talk a bit, maybe things like this wouldn't have to happen." The fire was part of an escalating series of threats and violence perpetuated against the mosque and its members, Ruiz said. He said the mosque began receiving threatening phone calls shortly after the Pulse massacre. And in July, he said, a member was punched in the face as he arrived for morning prayers. Sunday's fire has left the mosque's members "saddened and scared," said assistant imam Hamaad Rahman. —AP

CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR UNDER FIRE OVER NEW 'TAMPON TAX'

LOS ANGELES: California Governor Jerry Brown has come under fire for refusing to support legislation that would have scrapped sales taxes on tampons and diapers. Citing concerns about cost, Brown on Tuesday rejected a bill to repeal the so-called "tampon tax," drawing criticism from state lawmakers who had pushed for the measure. "Today's lesson: my uterus should carry the burden of fiscal responsibility for the state. Thank goodness GovBrown is around to #mansplain it," tweeted assemblywoman Cristina Garcia, who authored the bill.

The California measure was part of a growing international campaign to do away with taxes on sanitary products for women on grounds they are necessities and should be treated the same way as other essential items such as food and water. Similar bills were approved earlier this year in New York and Illinois. The California measure had unanimously been approved last month by lawmakers but Brown vetoed it along with several other bills saying the state could not afford the estimated \$300 million in lost revenue.

"Each of these bills creates a new tax break or expands an existing tax break," Brown said in rejecting the bills. "As I said last year, tax breaks are the same as new spending," he added. Lawmakers rejected his argument, with some suggesting that a wiser approach would be to tax candy, soda and snacks. "If you had to tax something, and it had to be candy or tampons and diapers, which would you choose?," assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez was quoted as saying by the Los Angeles Times.

The movement to do away with the "tampon tax" has been gaining traction in recent years and Canada and Ireland are among nations that have scrapped the tax. In Britain, the government was subjected to a furious backlash when it upheld a five percent tampon tax last year. It subsequently announced it would give millions of pounds raised from the levy to women's charities. French lawmakers voted last December to reduce the tax rate on women's sanitary products from 20 percent to 5.5 percent. —AFP

BRAZIL FILES CORRUPTION CHARGES AGAINST LULA

BRASILIA: Federal prosecutors in Brazil filed corruption charges Wednesday against former president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, describing the popular leftist as leader of a massive embezzlement ring at state oil company Petrobras. The charges allege that Lula received the equivalent of 3.7 million reais (\$1.1 million) in bribes.

Among the allegations are that Lula and his wife received a beachside apartment and upgrades to the property from a major construction company, OAS, which was one of the players in the Petrobras scheme. The allegations are not new but they now go before Judge Sergio Moro, head of the Petrobras investigation, who will decide whether to accept them, forcing Lula's case to trial.

Prosecutors singled out Lula—who was president during much of the time that Petrobras was being systematically fleeced by a network of corrupt executives and politicians—as the scheme's mastermind. Prosecutor Deltan Dallagnol called Lula, 70, the "supreme commander." Lula has repeatedly declared his innocence and says that the prosecution is politically motivated.

His attorney called the allegations "farcical." Polls show the founder of the leftist Workers' Party to be a favorite for returning to power in the next presidential elections in 2018. In the scheme, Petrobras, Brazil's biggest state company, gave over-inflated contracts to other big firms, such as OAS and construction rival Odebrecht. The pay-to-play network also involved high-ranking politicians who took bribes from the contractors, sometimes for their own gain and sometimes to fill party coffers to fund election campaigns.

Lula was president between 2003 and 2010, when the scheme was at its height. Since then, dozens of politicians and some of Brazil's richest businessmen have been charged or convicted. The judicial campaign is hugely popular among Brazilians fed up with runaway corruption. However, it has dovetailed with a bitter impeachment battle in Brasilia that ended last month with the removal from office of president Dilma Rousseff, Lula's hand-picked successor. Several close allies of her replacement, center-right leader Michel Temer, are now being investigated by the Petrobras prosecutors. —AFP

TYPHOON CUTS POWER, LASHES CHINA WITH WIND AND RAIN BEFORE WEAKENING

BEIJING: Typhoon Meranti slammed into southeastern China yesterday with strong winds and lashing rain that cut power to 1.65 million homes, but there were no reports of more casualties in what has been described as the strongest storm of the year globally. The storm, registered as a super typhoon before losing strength after sweeping across southern Taiwan, made landfall in the early hours near the major city of Xiamen. Dozens of flights and train services have been cancelled, state television said, disrupt-

ing travel at the start of the three-day Mid-Autumn Festival holiday.

Pictures on state media showed flooded streets, fallen trees and crushed cars in Xiamen as rescuers in boats evacuated people. About 320,000 homes were without power in Xiamen. Across the whole of Fujian province, where Xiamen is located, 1.65 million homes had no electricity, state television said. Large sections of Xiamen also suffered water supply disruptions and some windows in tall buildings shattered, sending glass showering onto the ground below,

state news agency Xinhua said.

The report said it was the strongest typhoon to hit that part of the country since the founding of Communist China in 1949 and the strongest so far this year anywhere in the world. Tens of thousands of people had already been evacuated as the storm approached and fishing boats called back to port. One person died and 38 were injured in Taiwan, the Central Emergency Operation Centre there said, as the typhoon hit the southern part of the island on Wednesday.

Meranti was a Category 5 typhoon, the strongest classification awarded by Tropical Storm Risk storm tracker, before it made landfall on the mainland and has since been downgraded to Category 2. Typhoons are common at this time of year, picking up strength as they cross the warm waters of the Pacific and bringing fierce winds and rain when they hit land. Meranti will continue to lose strength as it pushes inland and up towards China's commercial capital of Shanghai, but will bring heavy rain. —Reuters



BAARN, Netherlands : A rescue worker takes a picture around the spot where a Tesla slammed into a tree in Baarn, on September 7, 2016. A Chinese man suing Tesla Motors Inc after his son was killed while driving one of the US car makers' vehicles.—AFP

CHINESE MAN BLAMES TESLA AUTOPILOT FUNCTION FOR SON'S CRASH

SHANGHAI/BEIJING: A Chinese man suing Tesla Motors Inc after his son was killed while driving one of the US car makers' vehicles argues that the responsiveness of the car's "autopilot" function was responsible for the accident, his lawyer said. Tesla's Autopilot, introduced in October, has been the focus of intense scrutiny. The company said earlier this month that it was updating the system with new limits on hands-off driving and other improvements that would help prevent fatalities. The lawsuit in China would be the first involving the autopilot's role in a crash though there have been other fatalities elsewhere involving the function, the lawyer said.

Gao Jubin's 23-year-old son, Gao Yaning, died in January after crashing into the back of a road-sweeping vehicle while driving the car on a highway in the north-eastern province of Hebei, according to a police report provided by the father's lawyer, Wang Beibei. The family believes the car - a Tesla Model S sedan, according to the lawsuit - was driving in autopilot mode, the lawyer said. He said they had examined dashboard video footage and sought expert and other Tesla drivers' opinions.

"The autopilot program's slow response failed to accurately gauge the road conditions ahead and provide instructions," according to lawsuit documents seen by Reuters. Tesla said in a statement it was investigating the cause of the crash, but has "no way of knowing" if its semi-automated autopilot system was engaged at the time of the accident. "Because of the damage caused by the collision, the car was physically incapable of transmitting log data to our servers," Tesla said.

Tesla issued the statement after Chinese state broadcaster CCTV on Wednesday reported on the accident. A dashboard video shown on CCTV showed Gao's white Tesla cruising on a highway in clear weather before crashing into the back of a cleaning vehicle. CCTV quoted road police as saying the car did not brake before crashing into the vehicle. Gao's lawyer said Tesla had been in contact after they filed the lawsuit in a Beijing court in July, but they had yet to reach agreement with the company.

Tesla, in its statement, said it had "tried repeatedly to work with" Gao's family to determine the cause of the crash, but the family "has not provided us with any additional information that would allow us to do so." The lawyer said Gao disputed the claim. "The car is still there, and the data can still be extracted. A consumer can't read the data, but Tesla could read the data," he said. The case has also been filed against the Beijing-based dealer who sold the car.

Gao wants Tesla to pay him 10,000 yuan (\$1,499) and his legal costs, and for the company and its Beijing authorized dealer to jointly admit responsibility, according to the lawsuit documents. The family initially sued Tesla for 1 yuan to raise public attention, but increased their compensation demands later. —Reuters

EX-AFGHAN LEADER ATTACKS NEW US COMBAT RULES

KABUL: Former Afghan President Hamid Karzai has sharply criticized new authorities giving the US military greater freedom to fight Taliban insurgents, saying they were a further erosion of the country's sovereignty. In an interview, Karzai, who continues to exert considerable behind-the-scenes influence on Afghan politics, also called on the Islamist militant movement to be more realistic in demands that have hampered progress in peace talks. His comments on American involvement in the war were at odds with the government of his successor, President Ashraf Ghani, which has welcomed US political and military support.

"How could the US president authorize US troops to launch attacks on their own in Afghanistan?" Karzai said, referring to Barack Obama's June decision to alter the rules of engagement for the American military. "Don't we have a government here? Aren't we a sovereign country?"

The new authorities, which US officials say were agreed with the Afghan government, affect ground operations where US troops provide support to Afghan forces as well as air combat, and Karzai has long been critical of US

air strikes in Afghanistan, be they by fighter jets, helicopters or drones. He would ban them altogether, even though the Afghan armed forces, struggling to contain the insurgency, say they could not cope without support from the skies and want more.

The former leader's opposition reflects broader unease among Afghans who believe innocent people have been killed in air attacks targeting militants, unease that may grow with new powers granted to the US military. The US says its air strikes support Afghan operations and it takes extreme care to avoid civilian casualties, despite incidents such as the bombing of a Medecins Sans Frontieres hospital in Kunduz last year in which 42 people died. Calling Afghanistan the victim of a 21st century version of the "Great Game" between competing powers on the 19th century borders of British India, Karzai blamed the United States and Pakistan for "a war that is not ours".

Taliban must be realistic

However, he added that he wanted to reshape the partnership between Kabul and Washington, not end an alliance which brought him to power over a decade ago

and still ensures billions of dollars in aid and military support each year. Karzai was succeeded by Ghani two years ago. "I want to be allies with the United States, I want to be partners with the United States," he said. "But it must be a partnership, not a master-and-slave relationship. We must remain the owners of this house, the United States of America, a guest." As for the Taliban, Karzai said he saw little change in tactics since the death of former leader Mullah Akhtar Mansour in a US drone strike on Pakistani soil in May.

He appealed to the Taliban "as fellow Afghans to recognize that this is their country" and to break free of the influence of Pakistan, which despite frequent denials, is blamed by Afghanistan for supporting the insurgency. "I would call on the Taliban to be free from foreign influence - in this case Pakistan, the Pakistan intelligence and military," Karzai said. He added that they had to be more realistic in their demands to make peace talks possible. "When they say that foreign forces must leave first and then we will talk, then I tell them that if they keep waiting for that, a lot of Afghan blood will be shed," he said. —Reuters



MULTAN: Pakistani residents gather beside the wreckage at the site of the collision of two trains on the outskirts of Multan yesterday. At least four people were killed and more than 100 injured when two trains collided in central Pakistan early yesterday. —AFP

PAKISTAN TRAIN CRASH KILLS FOUR, INJURES 100

‘I THOUGHT THAT SOME BOMB HAD EXPLODED’

MULTAN, Pakistan: At least four people were killed and more than 100 injured when two trains collided in central Pakistan early yesterday, officials said. The accident occurred when the Karachi-bound “Awam Express” passenger train rammed into a goods train that had stopped after running over a man near the city of Multan. Rescue workers used metal-cutting equipment to try to reach injured passengers still trapped in the mangled wreckage, according to an AFP reporter at the scene.

Mohammad Javed, 35, a shopkeeper who lives near the site of the crash said he had been woken up by “a huge blast.” “I thought that some bomb had exploded,” he told AFP. “I came out of

my house and saw a passenger train had piled up on a goods train. I heard people crying in pain and many lying outside the train. “Survivors and locals were pulling out wounded people who were stuck in the wreckage.”

Local state-run rescue service spokesman Abdul Jabbar told AFP that more than 100 people had been hurt. Railway official Saima Bashir blamed the accident on the passenger train driver, saying he failed to heed a red signal that went up after the goods train had stopped. Cranes and ambulances filled the area as troops also raced to the scene to help.

Rescue official Khalid Hussain 28 people had been taken to hospital, while scores more were treated on the

spot. A three-day public holiday for the festival of Eid Al-Adha ended on Wednesday, and many Pakistanis are returning from their family homes to the cities where they work. Train accidents are common in the country, which inherited thousands of miles (kilometers) of track and trains from former colonial power, Britain. The railways have seen decades of decline due to corruption, mismanagement and lack of investment. Last November, 19 people were killed in southwestern Baluchistan province after a train’s brakes failed and it sped down the side of a mountain. In July 2015, at least 17 people were killed when a military train fell into a canal after a bridge partially collapsed. —AFP

PAKISTAN WOMAN, BOYFRIEND HANGED FOR ‘EXTRA-MARITAL AFFAIR’

MULTAN, Pakistan: A Pakistani mother-of-three and the man she was allegedly having an affair with were hanged from a tree yesterday, with police blaming her husband, brother and father for carrying out the killings. The grisly murders occurred in the village of Chak 56 around 55 kilometers (33 miles) northeast of the central city of Multan. Hundreds of so-called “honor killings”, in which the victim, normally a woman, is killed by a male relative or relatives for bringing shame to the family are carried out in Pakistan every year. “A woman and her alleged boyfriend were hanged to death by the woman’s father, brother and husband after the woman was caught on a date with her boyfriend in the backyard of her house,” Sardar Afzal Dogar, chief of the local police station told AFP.

The victims were named as Khalida Bibi, who was in her late twenties, and Mukhtiar Muhammad, who was around 19. He said all three suspected murderers were arrested and had confessed to their crimes, adding the woman’s husband had brought the alleged affair to the attention of the others. The incident was confirmed by other local officials at the

police station. “They were beaten up before being strung up in the tree and hanged,” another official said. Pakistan’s law minister in July announced that bills aimed at tackling “honor killings” and boosting rape convictions would soon be voted on by parliament, following a slew of high profile cases including the killing of racy social media starlet Qandeel Baloch by her brother. A young British Pakistani woman, Samia Shahid, was also murdered in July, with her husband blaming her family for orchestrating the killing.

The perpetrators of honor killings often walk free because they can seek forgiveness for the crime from another family member. The new law, which aims to do away with the clemency option, has not been made available to the public and no firm date has been set on when it will be tabled. Observers say the government is fearful of blowback from the religious right who believe being able to forgive a murder in exchange for blood money is an essential component of Islamic law. —AFP

PRO-INDIA KASHMIRI LAWMAKER QUILTS INDIA’S PARLIAMENT

SRINAGAR, India: A prominent pro-India Kashmiri politician resigned yesterday from India’s Parliament and from his regional party to protest a government crackdown in Kashmir that prevented people from offering Eid prayers for the first time in the troubled region. Tariq Hameed Karra, a founding member of the People’s Democratic Party, said he quit to express his anger over the “brutal policy” followed by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s government and the acquiescence of his party, a coalition partner. His decision is a setback for his party in Indian-controlled Kashmir, which has been wracked by massive protests for the past two months following the killing of a popular rebel leader. More than 80 people have been killed and thousands wounded, mostly by government forces firing bullets and shotgun pellets to quell the protests.

Kashmir is divided between India and Pakistan and claimed by both. Most Kashmiris want an end to Indian rule and favor independence or a merger with Pakistan. With the entire Kashmir Valley under a strict curfew, most people stayed indoors for the Islamic festival of Eid Al-Adha on Tuesday. Usually bustling on the holiday, places of worship and marketplaces were deserted. “For the first time in history, the people of Kashmir were not allowed to offer Eid prayers. Certain shrines and even the Grand Mosque were locked,” Karra told reporters yesterday in Srinagar, the main city in the region.

“Kashmiri blood is being spilled on the walls, lanes and drains of the valley,” he said. He accused the Indian government of brutality and insensitivity toward Kashmir. Separatist leaders have repeatedly urged police officers and politicians during the current unrest “to disengage from the Indian state.” Early this month, protesters set fire to the house of Nazir Laway, a local lawmaker in south Kashmir. The governing People’s Democratic Party is now left with two lawmakers in India’s Parliament representing the region.

It emerged in the early 2000s as the strongest opponent to the National Conference, a regional rival which is now an opposition party, using pro-separatist views for electoral gains. It first came to power in Kashmir in 2002 and assumed power for a second time in 2015 in coalition with Modi’s Bharatiya Janata Party after failing to win enough seats to form a government on its own. “Though I was all along feeling suffocated” by his party’s alliance with Modi’s party, “my conscience was shaken during the last two months,” Karra said. —AP

JAPAN OPPOSITION PARTY PICKS FIRST FEMALE LEADER AFTER CITIZENSHIP HICCUP

TOKYO: Japan’s main opposition Democratic Party yesterday elected a former cabinet minister as its first female leader yesterday, following a last-minute hiccup when she was found to hold dual citizenship in violation of Japanese law. Renho, 48, who goes by her given name only, hopes to repair the party’s image, battered by three years in power that were plagued by infighting, policy flip flops and unkept promises that handed Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) a landslide election win in 2012. Born to a Japanese mother and Taiwanese father, the former TV announcer and mother of twins was embarrassed this week when she discovered she held Taiwanese as well as Japanese citizenship. The law requires those with dual citizenship to choose one by age 22 and when opting for Japan, endeavor to renounce the other nationality. But there is no penalty for not doing so.

Renho had previously said she believed paperwork to renounce her Taiwanese citizenship had been completed when she was a teenager but was recently notified by the de facto Taiwanese embassy in Japan that her Taiwanese citizenship was still valid. “I would like to apologize for the recent trouble I have caused by my unclear memory and statements,” she said in a speech ahead of the vote. Renho is one of a handful of women to grab the spotlight lately in Japan’s male-dominated corridors of power, along with hawkish Defense Minister Tomomi Inada and Yuriko Koike, a former defense minister who is now Tokyo’s first female governor. She admitted yesterday her party faces an uphill battle against the LDP, which together with its junior partner dominates both houses of parliament. “From here on, we will face a giant ruling party,” she said after the vote. “I’d like to call upon everyone to join me in becoming a party that does not criticize but makes proposals ... so one day we will become Japan’s choice.” —Reuters

SHOW FACE TO COPS, MUSLIMS IN PHILIPPINE CITY ORDERED

DAVAO, Philippines: Women in burqas and those wearing surgical masks should refrain from concealing their faces in public, the Philippine president's mayor daughter said yesterday, describing the measure as aimed at preventing attacks. Sara Duterte, mayor of Davao and daughter of firebrand leader Rodrigo Duterte, made the remarks as police hunt for the suspects-seen on CCTV wearing face masks-behind a bombing this month that

killed 15 in the southern city. "It would be a good security practice to disallow garments that cover the faces in public places," the mayor said in a written statement.

"These garments include hats, sunglasses, face masks, mouth masks, burqa, face paint, and other similar things." She said she understood the concerns of Muslim women who are required by their religion to cover up.

"May I suggest that you wear the hijab

which shows your face or cooperate with the security personnel and show your face if you are wearing the burqa," the mayor said. Muslim women in the majority Catholic nation usually favor a hijab, which covers only the hair, over the face-concealing burqa, though it is growing in popularity. "The general welfare of the majority takes precedence over religious tradition. While it is true that these garments are not disallowed by law, we discourage their use in

public places," the mayor added. Surgical masks are commonly worn by commuters in Asian cities, to block out pollution, or sometimes to stop the spread of illness. Since the deadly blast in the bustling market in Davao on September 2, which led to the president declaring a "state of lawlessness", the city has introduced checkpoints and armed security at key establishments. The government has blamed the attack on local Islamic militants. —AFP



BULACAN, Philippines: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte (center in white) raises a clenched fist with Secretary of Defense Delfin Lorenzana (center right, in checkered shirt) and military chief General Ricardo Visaya (fifth right back row) as he poses for photos with members of the Scout Rangers regiment at a military training camp in San Miguel town, Bulacan province, north of Manila yesterday. —AFP

DUTERTE KILLED JUSTICE OFFICIAL, HITMAN TELLS PHILIPPINE SENATE

'THE PEOPLE OF DAVAO WERE BEING SLAUGHTERED LIKE CHICKEN'

MANILA: Rodrigo Duterte shot dead a justice department employee and ordered the murder of opponents, a former death squad member told parliament yesterday, in explosive allegations against the Philippine president. The self-described assassin testified under oath that he and a group of policemen and ex-communist rebels killed about 1,000 people between 1988 and 2013 on Duterte's orders—one of them an alleged kidnapper fed alive to a crocodile. Others were garroted, burned, quartered and then buried at a quarry owned by a police officer who was a member of the death squad. Others were dumped at sea to be eaten by fish. Edgar Matobato, 57, made the allegations before the Senate, which is investigating alleged extrajudicial killings in Duterte's anti-crime crackdown that police said has left 3,140 people dead in his first 72 days in office. Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre called the allegations "lies and fabrications", adding Matobato "is obviously not telling the truth".

Duterte aides said the government's Commission on Human Rights had already investigated the allegations but did not file charges while his son, Paolo Duterte, called the testimony "mere hearsay" of "a madman". The then head of the Commission on Human Rights, Senator Leila de Lima, told the inquiry

Matobato had surrendered to the investigatory body in 2009 and had until recently been in a witness protection scheme. Matobato recounted a 1993 death squad mission that was unintentionally impeded by the vehicle of an agent of the justice department's National Bureau of Investigation that was blocking a road on the southern city of Davao. The agent ran out of bullets and was wounded in a shootout before Rodrigo Duterte, the Davao mayor at the time, showed up armed with a submachine gun, Matobato said. "Mayor Duterte was the one who finished him off.... He emptied two Uzi magazines on him."

'Like chickens'

"I didn't kill anyone unless ordered by Charlie Mike," he said, telling the senate it was the death squad's coded reference to city mayor, referring to then-mayor Duterte. Matobato's testimony fleshed out in gruesome detail for the first time long-running allegations Duterte was behind the killings of more than a thousand petty criminals, including minors, in Davao, where he was mayor for most of the past two decades. "Our job was to kill criminals, rapists, pushers, and snatchers. That's what we did. We killed people almost on a daily basis" between 1988 and 2013, said Matobato, adding they also killed Duterte family foes and an "international

terrorist". "The people of Davao were being slaughtered like chicken," he said, adding he lied to his wife about butchering chickens when she saw his blood-spattered shirts. "I don't think he's capable of giving a directive like that," Duterte spokesman Martin Andanar said, adding that the government's human rights commission investigated the allegations but did not file charges. Duterte, who took office more than two months ago, won May elections in a landslide on a promise to kill thousands of criminals. He has rejected calls by the United States, the United Nations and rights groups to stop extra-judicial killings. Matobato said he received orders to kill either directly from Duterte or from active-duty Davao police officers assigned to the mayor's office who were also part of the death squad.

'Disembowelled bodies'

"The officers told us ordinary killings won't do. They are sadists," he said, describing how the victims were strangled. "Then we'd remove their clothes, burn the bodies and chop them up," Matobato said, adding that he had personally killed "about 50" people. Some victims were disembowelled and dropped at sea, while others were left on Davao streets with rusty handguns planted in their hands to simulate a gun battle, he added. — AFP

BALI TOURIST BOAT BLAST KILLS TWO FOREIGNERS, INJURES 18

DENPASAR, Indonesia: An explosion on a speedboat in Bali left two foreigners dead and 18 other tourists injured yesterday, sparking dramatic scenes as rescuers rushed to haul stunned and bloodied holidaymakers off the vessel. Dazed passengers, many covered in cuts and bruises, were taken to medical centers on the Indonesian holiday island after the blast, with TV footage showing them being carried on stretchers to ambulances and lying in hospital beds.

An Austrian woman was killed along with a second female foreigner, whose nationality was still being verified. Two German citizens were injured while nationals from Britain, France, Italy, Portugal, Ireland and Spain were also among the passengers. It appeared to be an accident with the explosion occurring in the fuel tank. The bomb squad was initially deployed to the scene on an island that has suffered bloody Islamist militant attacks in the past, but authorities quickly ruled out an attack. Indonesia has a poor maritime safety record and regularly suffers fatal boat accidents but serious incidents around Bali—which attracts millions of foreign visitors each year—are rare.

The speedboat, which was carrying some 30 foreign tourists and four crew, had just left Padang Bai port in Bali yesterday morning en route to the holiday island of Gili Trawangan when the blast occurred. "The explosion happened five minutes after the boat departed," local police chief Sugeng Sudarso told AFP, adding the vessel had been about 200 meters (yards) from the port. One woman died from head injuries soon after the blast while the Austrian woman died later in hospital, he said.

Poor safety record

Sudarso said he believed a malfunctioning battery near the fuel tank may have caused the accident. "Based on the testimony (from passengers) and from what I saw at the scene, the explosion came from the fuel tank," he said. "Above it was a battery, maybe there was a short circuit that affected the fuel tank." The British embassy in Jakarta said it was providing assistance to British nationals affected by the explosion. The Indonesian archipelago of more than 17,000 islands is heavily dependent on ferry services but the industry has a poor safety record.

Last year, dozens of tourists were injured when small explosions hit a ferry crossing between Bali and the neighboring holiday island of Lombok. The explosions, determined to be an accident, were thought to have come from the fuel tank of the ferry, which was carrying 129 passengers, most of them tourists. However fears have also been growing in Indonesia that radicals who have headed to fight with the Islamic State group in the Middle East could encourage supporters back home to mount attacks, or may do so themselves on their return.

In January, a gun and suicide bomb attack claimed by IS in the capital Jakarta left four attackers and four civilians dead. Bali has been attacked by Islamic radicals before. In 2002, more than 200 people, mostly foreign tourists, were killed in bombings on the island. A sustained crackdown following the Bali bombings had weakened the most dangerous networks but IS has proved a potent new rallying cry for the country's extremists. A pocket of Hinduism in Muslim-majority Indonesia, Bali attracts millions of foreign visitors every year due to its palm-fringed, tropical beaches and picture-postcard temples. —AFP

Friday Times

Lifestyke

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2016

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**First hijab runway show presented
at New York Fashion Week**



First hijab runway show presented at New York Fashion Week

Models with hijab, the traditional veil worn by Muslim women which usually covers the head and chest, walked the New York Fashion Week runway for the first time in shows of luxurious Muslim clothes, designed by the Indonesian designer Anniesa Hasibuan and Indian-American designer Naeem Khan. Hasibuan's show took place at one of NYFW venues, the Moynihan Station, in downtown Manhattan.

Hasibuan is not the first Indonesian designer to present collection in the Big Apple. She, however, was the first to show-

case a collection that has every look worn with hijabs. In her collection, hijabs were worn with trousers, suits, tunics and colorful silk gowns. Hasibuan began her career just over a year ago. The brand has successfully shown collections at several fashion events including the Istanbul and London Fashion weeks. Naeem Khan's gowns, but not with hijab, have been worn on numerous occasions by US First Lady Michelle Obama.

— latino.foxnews.com



RALPH LAUREN EMBRACES THE AMERICAN WEST - AND FAST FASHION

Call it "fast fashion," "runway-to-retail," or "see now-buy now." No matter the term, it's the unmistakable trend in fashion, and Ralph Lauren embraced it fully - presenting his New York Fashion Week collection on the street outside his store, then inviting guests inside to buy what they'd just seen. "Today I am proud to share with you, for the first time ever, my new women's collection right off the runway and into your lives," the venerable designer wrote in a statement. "You are changing the way you live and the way you want to shop, and we are changing with you and for you."

Lauren's runway show Wednesday evening had the added cachet of literally stopping traffic - the block of Madison Avenue fronting his store was closed off for the glamorous event, held in a temporary glass structure that resembled a greenhouse. But it wasn't plants people came to see. It was Lauren's luxurious take on the American West, complete with fringed jackets, embroidered western-style shirts, southwestern ponchos, macrame and cowboy hats. Model-of-the-moment Kendall Jenner wore a bomber-style leather jacket with a western belt and black pants.

"I have always been inspired by the rugged beauty and romance of the American West," Lauren wrote. "The September Collection is imbued with that spirit, but reinterpreted in a modern glamorous way for the woman whose style is both personal and luxurious." Guests at the show included actresses Julianne

Moore and Jessica Alba. Moore marveled afterward that the show had taken place "on the actual sidewalk." She added: "I was thinking, oh my gosh, this is the cleanest sidewalk I have ever seen in New York!"

Moore also marveled that she had walked into the store afterward and "walked right up to that black and white shirt - I was, 'Wow, look at that.'" Traditionally, items seen at Fashion Week shows take months to make it into stores. But a number of designers have been trying to sell at least some of their items right away, knowing that consumers are less patient now than they used to be. The runway show began with a slew of items in black, tan, white and brown. It was only toward the end that bright color suddenly popped up - shimmery, slinky dresses in purple, deep pink, red, yellow and bright blue.

At the end, Lauren - in washed-out jeans and a work shirt - came out for his customary wave to the crowd, stopping to make a happy gesture that resembled a flamenco move. Then he retreated into his store, where champagne and caviar - and the new clothing, of course - awaited the invited guests. — AP



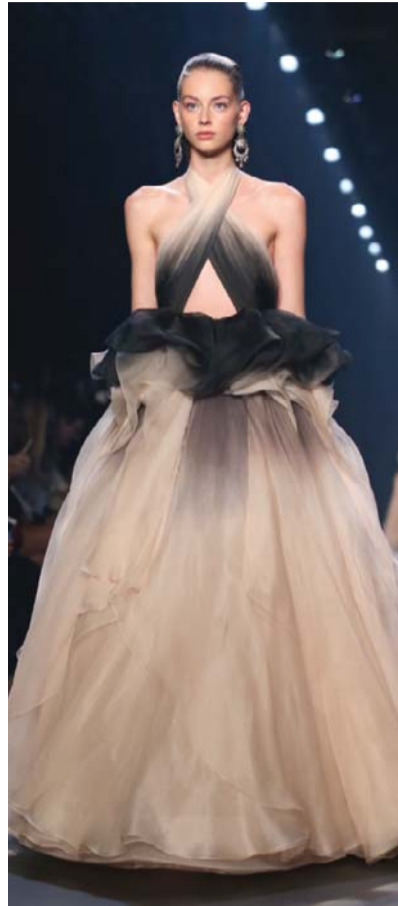
Designer Ralph Lauren acknowledges applause after the runway show for his collection during Fashion Week, Wednesday in New York. — AP photos



The Ralph Lauren collection is modeled during Fashion Week.



The Marchesa collection is modeled during Fashion Week in New York.



NEW YORK

FASHION WEEK

Marchesa, Maxwell, Kors

At Marchesa, a journey in time and color

Designers Georgina Chapman and Keren Craig at Marchesa say they have no trouble thinking of ideas for each new sea-

son. "Georgina will call me in the morning and say, 'I've had a dream, I've had a thought, we're gonna do this,'" Craig said in a backstage interview. "The ideas just flow." Added Chapman: "At the end of the day we have our DNA in the clothes, that we're very true to, and we enjoy it and we laugh." For their spring collection, the designers - red-carpet regulars - focused on what they called the journey of a

day, from sunrise to twilight to darkness.

On the runway, light pinks - for sunrise - yielded to silvery blues and silvers, perhaps for dew. There was gold, to evoke sunlit wheat fields. There was black, too, of course, for deep night. There were florals galore, some fringe - as in a tiered fringe column gown in blue tulle - and of course lots of lavish embroidery. Chapman and Craig estab-

lished their brand more than a decade ago, but they say they still haven't tired of working together. "In fact on Saturday night we had a girlie sleepover," Craig said. "We did," agreed Chapman. "We sent the kids and husbands away, since we had to work. We had some wine and a good giggle."

Brandon Maxwell's cheer squad includes Lady Gaga

Gaga stood up and led the adulation at the end of her former stylist's show Tuesday night. Maxwell, who launched his company last year, has already dressed first lady Michelle Obama twice and won a prestigious award from the Council of Fashion Designers of America. Gaga, Naomi Campbell, Uma Thurman and Zendaya are just a few of the celebs who have worn him. How did he do that in such a short span?

"I have such great friends and family," Maxwell said in an interview. When he decided to become a designer himself and build a business, "they really got on board and fully supported me." For fashion week, the Texas native stuck close to his core aesthetic, with folded and piped bodices that curved and hugged, a cape-back jumpsuit, pleated trousers and deep V necks and halters in satin and other elegant fabrics. Some of his tops were cropped and tiny while other looks



offered plenty of coverage.

His 60-year-old mom, Pam Woolley, attended the show and wore a black outfit with big bell cuffs that fit her perfectly. Gaga also wore Maxwell - teeny tight black shorts with a matching crop top, showing off her long blonde high ponytail as she sipped Champagne in black-rimmed nerd glasses and later stood and clapped from the front row when Maxwell came out for his bow.



The Brandon Maxwell Spring 2017 collection is modeled during Fashion Week at the Russian Tea Room.

Michael Kors has a message for spring: Get happy!

The designer put Rufus Wainwright on his runway to belt Judy Garland tunes as models walked in bring florals and looks in classic navy and white. Kors said in an interview he was thinking about that old chestnut, "She's a real dame," ala Barbara Stanwyck and Katharine Hepburn back in the '40s and Kim Basinger in the '80s.

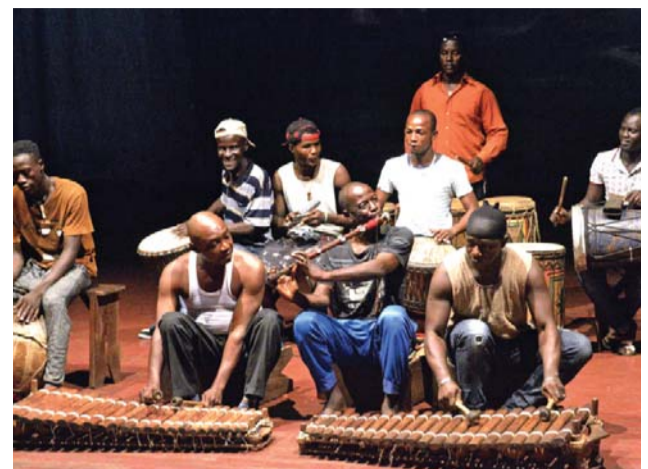
"These women were sly and feminine but they were definitely in control," Kors said. He delivered that attitude in sharp tailoring of shoulders and cinched waists, mixed with things like a wide-belted trench coat with an asymmetrical hem, pleated palazzo pants and shoulder-to-wrist rows of ruffles on the sleeves of one

collared, see-through button-down blouse. "Something that catches the breeze," Kors said. Kors, bending to the "see now, buy now" trend, made some looks immediately available, but most of the collection he called timeless, the "opposite of fast fashion." That was true of navy blue coats, day dresses and sparkly black eveningwear. It might not be true of little bra top and romper sets in browns, or oversized sleeves flopping over hands. Impulse buy or investment, the fashion seasons are officially blurred, Kors said. "More and more we see that our customers don't pay attention to the seasons anyway," he said. "People wear boots in the summer, sandals in the winter. People travel. There's no time of day or night." — Agencies



The Michael Kors Spring 2017 collection is modeled during Fashion Week.





Musicians of the National Ballet of Guinea perform during a rehearsal in Conakry. — AP /AFP photos

Guinea's world-famous dance troupe fades into uncertain future

For years, Guinea's main dance company brought glory to the west African state, touring the globe for sell-out performances. Today, ageing and forgotten, it struggles to train a new generation of dancers facing a very uncertain future. "Les Ballets Africains was the biggest cultural institution not just in Guinea but, as their name suggests, in the whole of Africa," said national culture director Jean Baptiste Williams. "They made Guinea proud on stages around the world." Yet now, the stars once lauded on Broadway have no dedicated performance space, no financing and have not worked outside of the country in years.

It all started in the early 1950s in Paris, capital of Guinea's then colonial power, when three friends joined forces in the heady days of growing African independence movements. Guineans Fodeba Keita, a poet and dancer, and Facelli Kante, a guitarist, and Cameroonian singer Albert Mouangue, wanted to promote African identity and traditions, telling stories through dance, song, percussion and gymnastic displays. In 1958, a proud yet impoverished Guinea, newly independent from France, began investing heavily in culture under its charismatic first president, Ahmed Sekou Toure, a socialist and ardent promoter of the arts.

Back home, Les Ballets Africains members were made state employees with the government catering to their every need. They, in turn, became Conakry's cultural ambassadors and the fresh face of decolonised Africa. "Until the death of Sekou Toure (in 1984), we were like the pampered children of the revolution," artistic director Hamidou Bangoura, 74, told AFP.

Global popularity

An acrobat by training, Bangoura has spent 56 years with the troupe, joining in 1960 as Les Ballets Africains began its meteoric rise. "We did the five continents," he said, electrifying spectators in the grandest theatres of Paris, Moscow, New York and elsewhere. And when they performed in Guinea, "absolutely

everyone came" to revel in the music of the ancient balafon, a type of wooden xylophone, the haunting kora, a 21-string lute native to West Africa, the high-octane dancing and the dazzling array of outfits steeped in folklore.

But the United States was "our biggest market", Bangoura reminisced. "Every year we went for two or three months," during international tours that could last a year or more. They not only raked in money but rubbed shoulders with black American superstars like Oscar-winning actor Sidney Poitier, boxing champion Muhammad Ali and "Godfather of Soul" James Brown. They also met South African singer and civil rights activist Miriam Makeba, the trailblazer in popularizing African music worldwide who lived many years in exile in the US.

The troupe's success generated income for the new republic back home. "We put clothes on the back of our soldiers, bought instruments for our musicians," Mariama Toure, a Les Ballets Africains dancer since 1976, recalled with pride. Even the Guinea national football squad got new kits thanks to their shows. Things began to change with Toure's death. They no



longer, as before, had "all the doors open to us", said Sekou 2 Conde, a member of Les Ballets Africains since 1967. Lansana Conte, Guinea's second president, began a process that would see the troupe stripped of their envied status as civil servants.

After taking power in a military coup, Conte won friends in the west by dropping his predecessor's leftwing policies in favour of IMF-backed spending cuts. Ballets and orchestras became difficult to maintain as the government promoted privatisation, with attention shifting to individual artists and the scene moving to Paris where Guinea's most famous performer Mory Kante was based.

Uncertain future

There are now 45 members of Les Ballets Africains, many of them pensioners. They rehearse in the capital's Palais du Peuple (People's Palace). Since parliament is also based here, they find themselves sharing their performance space with political meetings and other public events. The old guard rely heavily on the goodwill of others—technicians, voluntary dancers and the public—just to keep going. The long tours of old were gradually cut down and the last time they left Guinea to perform abroad was in 2010, to China.

"We have no support," lamented Toure. "It makes me sad." Regardless, the veterans of 30, 40, and 50 years in the troupe refuse to give up, training unpaid young newcomers from Monday to Thursday, come rain or shine. Culture Minister Fodeba Isto Keira told AFP there is a plan to relaunch artistic ensembles like Les Ballets Africains, "but to do that we have to modernise the workforce". Troupe member Bangoura fears all may not move ahead quickly enough, given the high level of dedication required of the company's recruits. "We will keep training the young ones," he said, but worries they will give up if they see no future in their art. "This is my biggest fear today."—AFP

Gere helps effort to aid homeless in his NY hometown

Richard Gere has given a boost to the Salvation Army in his upstate New York hometown. The star of such films as "An Officer and a Gentleman" and "Pretty Woman" was the guest speaker Wednesday for the Salvation Army's 45th annual Civic Celebration held at a downtown Syracuse arena.

Gere grew up in nearby North Syracuse. He said his portrayal of a destitute man living on the streets of Manhattan in the 2014 film "Time

Out of Mind" made him realize that most people purposely don't give a second glance to the homeless. He said that needs to be changed to a more compassionate and understanding attitude. Salvation Army officials said Gere's appearance will help their efforts to aid the homeless population and others in need. — AP

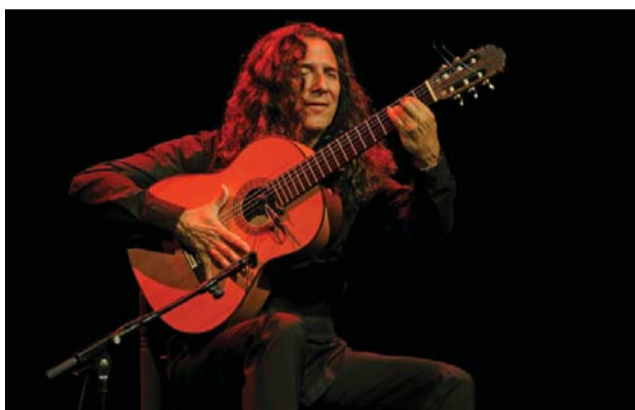


File photo shows actor and philanthropist Richard Gere speaks during the Liberty Medal ceremony at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia. — AP

Spain's Tomatito: 60 guitars and family-style flamenco

He's won Latin Grammy awards, toured the world and played with flamenco's superstar "gods" Camaron de la Isla and Paco de Lucia. But at 58, Spain's famed gypsy guitarist Tomatito, who drew a standing ovation at Seville's Flamenco Biennial this week, remains modest and almost shy, wrapped up in his passion for an art form he learned early on as part of a musical family.

"My mother would tell me 'stop it now, don't play more, shut up', as I was playing all day long," he says in an interview ahead of a concert in Seville, sporting ripped jeans and a loose black spotted shirt, his hair long and wavy.



Spanish flamenco guitarist, Tomatito, performs during a concert at the Teatro Lope de Vega, in Sevilla, during the Bienal de Flamenco music festival. — AFP photos

'Dream shattered'

He was an introverted teenager playing in a tavern in Malaga when Jose Monge Cruz—otherwise known as Camaron de la Isla, considered the greatest flamenco singers of modern times—got wind of his talent over 40 years ago. He hired him as his guitarist, and Tomatito—whose real name is Jose Fernandez Torres—stayed at the side of the "Picasso of flamenco" for 18 years. Both of them were self-taught and never learned how to read a partition. "Listening to Camaron sing was like a dream," he recalls, sitting in

a hotel in Seville, one of the birthplaces of flamenco, an art-form born centuries ago among the poor gypsies of southern Andalusia.

But then in 1992, "the dream shattered" when Camaron de la Isla died of cancer at the tender age of 41, ravaged by drugs. Tomatito—which means "little tomato", a nickname that follows in the footsteps of his grandfather and father who were both known as El Tomate—was forced "to come back to earth." He reluctantly went solo, launching a career that took him around the world, blending flamenco and jazz in an echo of the new style of famed guitarist Paco de Lucia, with whom he also played.

Music in the genes

More than two decades after his death, Camaron de la Isla remains a part of the lives of Tomatito, his six children and seven grandchildren. "Even if he died before I was born, he is still present at home where we listen to him, talk about him," says Jose "Tomatito junior," who at 18 is following in his dad's footsteps and is set to bring out his first album as a guitarist. The family house in Aguadulce on the Mediterranean coast is "full of souvenirs of Camaron and Paco," he adds with a broad smile, as he prepares to go on stage later with his father.

It is also the home of some 60 guitars, he says, including the one with which he plays, "made for Camaron who then gave it to my father." Tomatito's daughter Mari Angeles also sings, and she too will be joining him on stage later. While Tomatito says parents cannot force their offspring into music, he adds genes do play a part. "If you see your grandfather playing guitar when you're tiny, your father playing music at home, then it's all a game for you."

That's exactly how it happened for him, at a time when kids learnt flamenco "on the street... bunched together at the door of a house." His grandfather El Tomate played the guitar, his father was in the military brass band of Almeria in the southeast and his uncle was also a guitarist who achieved belated fame. The same is true in his own household. "When we start playing music, one of my grandsons sings, another dances, it's funny," says Tomatito. In October, he starts a tour in the United States and central America—a firm cornerstone of Spain's flamenco scene. But he bristles when journalists try to label him as Paco de Lucia's successor. "All of us put together can't hold a candle to Paco," he says. — AFP



This image released by Lionsgate shows Valorie Curry in a scene from 'Blair Witch.'—AP

'Blair Witch Project' sequel gets lost in the woods

People will have different reactions to the new "The Blair Witch Project" sequel, but one thing we all probably can agree on is this: We need to hurry up and clear-cut that haunted forest in Maryland, once and for all. Even environmentalists would agree - what about a nice big parking lot? - after sitting through the harrowing "Blair Witch," which takes place in the same creepy woods where three student filmmakers disappeared in the original.

Why either a new batch of kids or a new clutch of filmmakers have suited up to tramp around the Black Hills in search of the same angry witch is puzzling. There's an old saying that you can never go home again. It is advice neither team took - and so they're doomed. "Blair Witch" borrows most of the skeleton of the original 1999 film but ups the scariness at the cost of coherency. Director Adam Wingard also strays from the found-footage conceit and sometimes doesn't even pretend that what we're seeing was shot by anyone in the group. That suspension of disbelief is important or why try a direct sequel at all? (By the way, we're totally ignoring the quickie 2000 sequel "Book Of Shadows: Blair Witch 2.")

Initial budget

First a primer, in case you just wandered out of a haunted forest: "The Blair Witch Project" was a cultural sensation. Shot for an initial budget of less than \$50,000, it grossed just shy of \$248 million, sparking trends in both found-footage horror and shaky-camera confessionals. Its faux-documentary premise was that it was just stitched-together footage taken by three student filmmakers who went missing while witch hunting. Directors Daniel Myrick and Eduardo Sanchez did such a good job that audiences initially really believed three souls had been lost.

The original was quaint horror by today's standard, more psychologically traumatizing and not at all gory. The three students gradually turn on each other in the face of escalating hysteria - really just piles of rocks and weird stick figures. It ended with a snot-nosed, half-faced apology by one victim. In the sequel, her brother (James Allen McCune) is determined to find out what happened 20 years ago. So he and three friends (Callie Hernandez, Brandon Scott, Corbin Reid), incredibly, suit up to tramp in the same creepy woods.

By this time it should be clear that no one should ever wander off alone, even to relieve themselves. Do these kids listen? This time, our heroes are joined by some locals (Wes Robinson and Valorie Curry) who know the woods - but may have their own agenda - and writer Simon Barrett has weaved in a sly lesson about our confidence in high-tech gizmos. The group seems invincible with their GPS, digital walkie-talkies, memory cards and earpieces. (They even brought a drone.) Good luck with that, guys.

Progressively messy

This sequel gets progressively messy while "The Blair Witch Project" grew progressively taut. In this movie, the filmmakers throw out a lot of elements that are dead ends - double-crossing, infections and time shifts. The film really only rights itself in the final, breathtaking sequences when the title character applies her special brand of pressure.

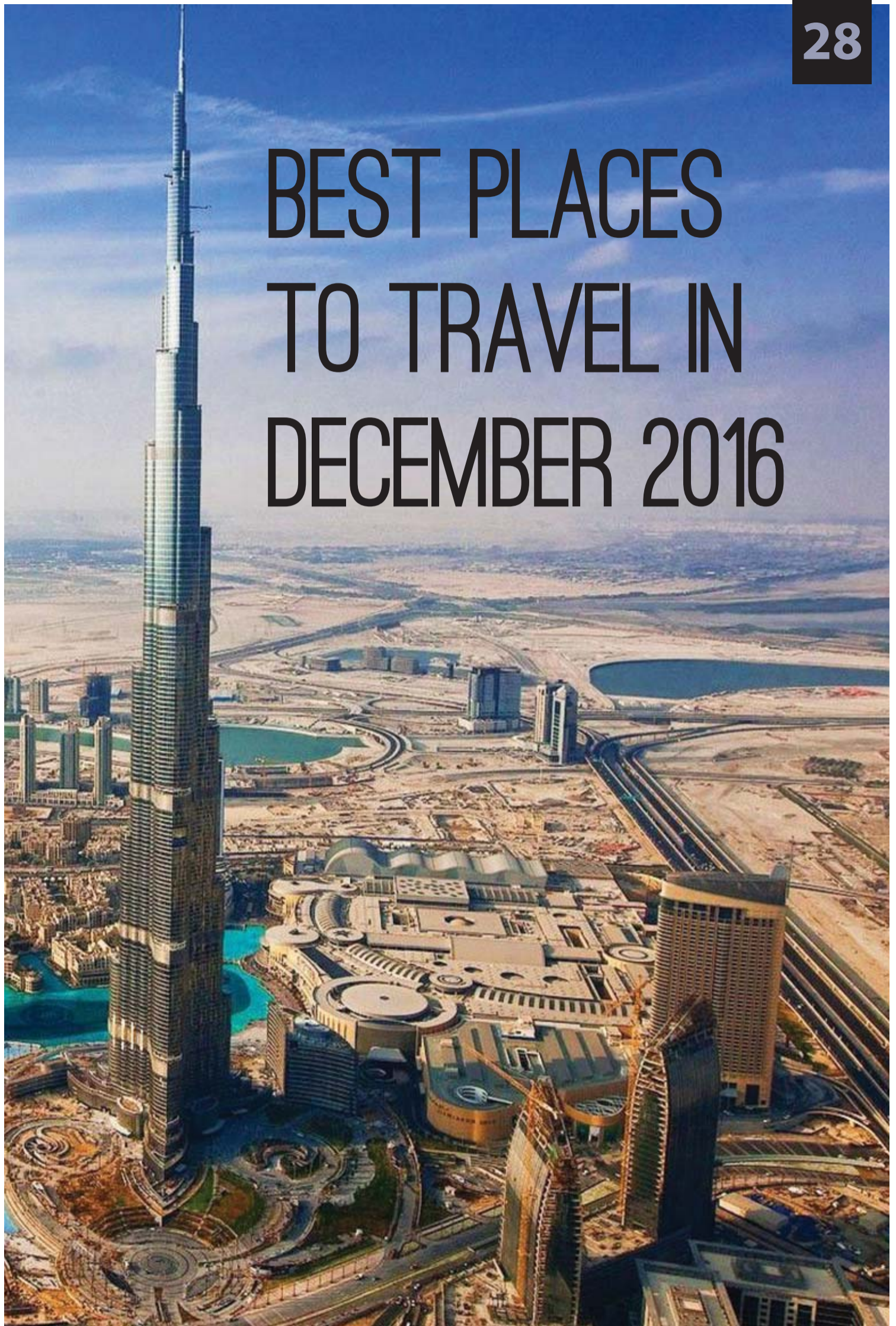
So, for those keeping score, it's: Nosey Kids, 0; Blair Witch, 2. It's time to bulldoze, right? "Blair Witch," a Lionsgate, Vertigo Entertainment, Room 101 and Snoot Entertainment release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association of America for "language, terror and some disturbing images." Running time: 89 minutes. Two stars out of four. — AP



Spanish flamenco dancer Maria Pages (second left) and her dancers perform at Teatro de la Maestranza, in Sevilla during the Bienal de Flamenco.



Friday Times
Travel



BEST PLACES TO TRAVEL IN DECEMBER 2016

Ah December, is it the month to put away your passport and reach for the mince pies? Not necessarily. There's still time to squeeze another adventure out of 2016 - all while enjoying the spirit of the season. So end the year on a travel high with these tips from lonely planet's travel and destination experts.



Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City



Edinburgh's Christmas market

Say hello to the locals in Ningaloo, Western Australia

A two-hour flight or two-day drive north of Perth in Western Australia, Ningaloo reef is flush with marine life from whale sharks to manta rays, and tropical fish of every hue. It is also home to three different types of turtle that are so prolific the locals consider spotting one like seeing a pigeon in Trafalgar Square. In the lead up to December green, loggerhead, and hawksbill turtles mate along Ningaloo reef before dragging themselves ashore to lay their eggs. You can view the egg-laying and hatching - and if you're keen to learn, see and do more, you can participate in environmental programs like Ningaloo Turtle Program (ningalooturtles.org.au) to monitor activity and help maintain their breeding colonies.

Get festive in Edinburgh

Edinburgh boasts long days and arty festivities in summer. But it's also a city of snug pubs, atmospheric wynds (alleys) and dark tales: this is the place that raised the creators of Sherlock Holmes and Jekyll and Hyde. That makes December a fine time to visit Scotland's capital, when you'll also find sights like Edinburgh Castle and the Royal Yacht

Britannia far quieter than they are in high season.

There are celebrations through the month - an open-air ice rink in Princes Street Gardens means you can pirouette (or wobble) under the shadow of the castle, and nearby Christmas markets and a fairground entertain all visitors. But things really get going in the run-up to New Year. The Hogmanay street party turns Princes Street into a vast, pulsing throng of booze and bonhomie on 31 December - the main event is limited to 100,000 people so book in advance. Other events include gigs, ceilidhs, fireworks and the Loony Dook, in which hundreds of brave (and hungover) souls throw themselves into the Firth of Forth on 1 January.

Celebrate Mexico's most important religious festival

If you like your religious festivals big and loud then Mexico City is the place to be in mid-December. The feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the country's patron, is celebrated on the 12th of the month when millions - and we mean millions - of people gather at the Basilica de Guadalupe in the north of the city. The basilica is said to be built on the spot where the Virgin Mary appeared to a local

man, just a few years after the Spanish conquest of 1521. The man, Juan Diego, finally convinced authorities that his claims were true when he showed them his cloak on which the Virgin had emblazoned her image. Three churches have subsequently been built on the site: the latest, from the 1970s, can hold 40,000 faithful. Several days of festivities lead up to the main event so expect lots of food, drink and music across the capital.

Walk in Croatia's winter wonderland

Croatia's capital Zagreb comes into its own in winter, offering a hamper of seasonal treats, from Christmas markets to ski slopes. The city will be brimming over with festive spirit between 26 November 2016 and 8 January 2017, when the Advent in Zagreb (adventzagreb.hr/en) programme will be in full swing. Several central squares are filled with illuminated market stalls - the perfect place to sup mulled wine, nibble on gingerbread hearts and shop for glittering Christmas decorations and gifts.

There's also a live-action nativity scene outside the cathedral and a host of free concerts in the city's squares, shopping arcades and balconies. To burn off calories after



Ningaloo, Western Australia



Join the crowds at Falls Music and Arts Festival in Lorne, Victoria

all the festive feasting, head to Sljeme Ski Resort (sljeme.hr), just a 20-minute drive away from the city, where there are slopes suitable for skiers of all levels, and sledging for the kids.

Join the party in Dubai

Travelers are spoilt for choice during Dubai's cooler season, with sport events, concerts, parties and celebrations keeping everyone busy. The month kicks off with some patriotic celebrations on 2 December, as the UAE celebrates its 45th National Day. Expect fireworks, parades and plenty of enthusiastic flag-waving during the public holiday.

Throughout the rest of the month, it's one glamorous event after another. Rub shoulders with Dubai's high socie-

ty while watching the horses at the Meydan Races - a real glimpse into the lifestyles of the UAE's fabulously wealthy; see a movie at the Dubai International Film Festival; get into the sporting spirit for the three-day Rugby Sevens tournament; and to wrap up the month, splash some cash at the Dubai Shopping Festival. After all that excitement, anyone in serious need of a holiday can flop down on the beach for a few days. After all, 'cooler' season in Dubai still means warm weather and glorious sunshine.

Celebrate the Australian summer in Lorne, Victoria

Since 1993, festival lovers have been flocking to the small seaside town of Lorne for the annual Falls Music and Arts Festival (fallsfestival.com), which kicks off at the end of

December and carries on into the new year. Throw in a trip along the Great Ocean Road, berry picking at local farms and Christmas on the beach for a quintessential Australian summer break.

Lorne comes alive in December, with endless sunshine, a thriving arts scene and ample opportunity for fish and chips by the ocean. A short drive past Apollo Bay will have you surrounded by wild koalas asleep in the trees. Alternatively, head inland to the berry farms for fresh raspberries, strawberries and blackberries. As Christmas draws near, take to the beach with Santa hats and swimming costumes, in true Aussie style. Falls Festival follows shortly after, so prepare to party well into the new year!

—www.lonelyplanet.com



Everyday's a chance to celebrate during December in Dubai



Zagreb: Your alternative European Christmas market destination



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Learning new ways to make money is where your mind may be focused now. Obtaining and exchanging information takes on more importance just now. There is a basic struggle between your feelings and your livelihood just now. You might enjoy acting in plays and moving on to movies. Getting up close and personal with a group of actors and becoming visible and active in their surroundings may also take you into a job such as costume fitting or props, etc. Think about writing a review of an activity, city or accommodations while on vacation this year. Being paid for your literary expertise while on vacation can be a lot of fun. Firsthand reports are encouraged by tourist places. You just may find a good avenue for your creativity today.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

There may be a sense of challenge or blockage just now. You may not find the support you think you might need. Other people see your reaction to some event in your life and are automatically impressed by your composure. Your reaction to some event can change everyone's perspective. Pay close attention to a supervisor today as this person may give you advice in a roundabout way. You are able to penetrate and get to the very heart of things, finding positive results at every turn. Self-sacrifice and an understanding attitude on your part could have far-reaching effects on your career during this time. You are able to draw on hidden reserves of energy to enjoy your favorite hobby this evening. When you make dessert, make it for everyone.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Perhaps this is a good time to think and study, for you have a real appreciation for ideas and thoughts. You may also find yourself enjoying long conversations, meetings and paperwork. Your own requirements may appear to limit and separate you from where the rest of the gang is headed. Perhaps you have decided to brush up on some computer skills; at any rate this is short term and you will be able to enjoy the company of your friends again soon. Unconventional approaches to philosophy, religion, law and politics come to play a bigger role in your life. Development in these areas will have a big impact on you. Higher education, publishing, broadcasting or advertising could play an unexpected role in setting new directions for you now.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Heavy work duties may create some wonderfully creative inspirations. When you put your new ideas to use or record your ideas on paper, you have great results. Think about adding to your list of friends-these relationships are the ones that will help you grow in positive, healthy ways. After all, it is through our friends that we truly learn about ourselves. You can demonstrate great understanding and sensitivity to the needs of others just now and you are in a good position to guide others in a variety of ways. You may find yourself involved in some community improvements. You may also try to initiate a family gathering, as it has been much too long between visits. Check it out . . . Perhaps a family reunion is already in the works!



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You have the ability to turn a difficult business situation around into more positive results. Higher-ups will notice your hard work. This is a productive workday in which you will have opportunities to expand your talents and enjoy the rewards. As you see your visions and goals develop, you will find financial benefits. There are new ideas about your family history-you have a new approach to establishing some beneficial facts-perhaps about property. This can be an expansive and even romantic phase in your life to be remembered for a long time. Health care options fascinate you. You enjoy checking out the latest news about spiritual healing, miracle vitamins and herbs, etc. You reveal your most elegant side at a social event this evening.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

This is the perfect time to do some sort of promotional work. Your sense of responsibility is so well developed that you end up managing most situations in which you become involved. You display your eagerness for your work and much is accomplished. This is a particularly fun day in that a new piece of equipment or technique is something you are already familiar with and others could be asking for your advice. Some of your greatest pleasures this month are the times that you are recognized for the progress you have made or the knowledge you have gained. Your mental attitude is most positive and many people come to you for advice. A group gathers today to celebrate your day. There are plenty of hugs and laughter is all around.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Meetings and ideas, mental things, information exchange and the interrelating of all these are central to your outer makeup. This is a wonderful time to show your creative talents. Communication is the interface that holds the rest of you together. Communication is also where the fun part of this day takes place. Perhaps a group gathering will disburse into smaller clusters and then there is an opportunity for visiting with acquaintances. Perhaps a leisure meal or the last of the season's homemade ice cream parties may result-take pictures. This could mean you are attending a special lecture or contest. You love a good story and a sense of the mystical pervades everyone you tell. You may dive into a good book or movie to relax this evening.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Someone older than you or an authority figure gives you an opportunity to express yourself today. This could be the time to display your ability to quickly solve work issues. Take note that your feelings and emotions may not be your best guide. Picture in your mind someone that could handle the demands that are presented to you and you will succeed in what you set out to achieve with this interaction. You may work through all that is superficial, no matter what kind of personal sacrifice is required. You might find it difficult to relax this evening but exercise is important after some bit of stress. Exercise may also be a great way to create some transition time. You draw emotional sustenance and a sense of security from ideals, friends and society.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You have an incredible drive to accomplish and achieve these days. Your ambitions are backed up by the will to get things done. Be aware of your tendency for pushiness-you can be very passionate when involved in your work. You try hard and you always press on toward any goals that you have on your mind. You have an ability to work with the imagination, reaching beyond the commonplace. Consider the field of teaching-even part-time. Your enthusiasm for mystical and religious experiences would make you an excellent teacher in the areas of art and creative matters. Your sense of the unity behind things spiritual and psychological is felt by those around you. You will continue to enjoy creative experiences.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Like the pilot that agreed to pilot a privately owned spaceship, you are willing to take a chance on something new. This may mean anything from a long shot in horse racing to signing up for a survival experience the next time you have a vacation or a long weekend. This is indeed a good time to broaden your horizons, intellectually and spiritually. Education, publishing, broadcasting, the law and political interests are in the realm of possibilities. You give good advice in the workplace. You may not be the creator of an advertisement or the writer of an article, but you will share ideas with others that will be useful within the business for which you work. This does not mean that you could not create an advertisement. Rewards are in the making.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Everything may be pouring in at once and it's all good news. Your career direction gets some encouragement and life's problems become easier to solve. You may find this a moody, even dreamy time. Your emotions and feelings could reach heights that are close to ecstatic. It is easy for you to find the proper motivation to make your dreams into reality. Problems could lose some of their definition and appear less difficult. You might have a sense of living in a dream world or of being awake in your own dream. Everything seems less solid and definite. Perhaps there is a new job offer, a birth, a marriage, etc. The spirit world seems real and possible. Slow down this evening and look at some ways you can share your happiness with others.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Others may find you especially witty and unconventional this morning. You may have many insights with regard to your life. People value you for your independence and unique qualities. You may have some added responsibility today, but this just seems to spur you forward. When it comes to spending money, you may decide a trip is more important than a new suit or hairstyle-some may consider this frugal. You may be just as fond of simplicity as the other person is of abundance. You can determine the difference between necessity and frivolity and you put great value on organization and planning. Enhancement of funds brings a great deal of satisfaction now. A young person's schoolwork needs attention this evening.

COUNTRY CODES

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

BBC FIRST

09:15 Pramface
 09:45 Doctors
 10:15 Doctors
 10:45 Eastenders
 11:15 Stella
 12:00 Holby City
 13:00 Doctors
 13:30 Doctors
 14:00 Eastenders
 14:30 Eastenders
 15:05 Casualty
 15:55 New Tricks
 16:50 Call The Midwife
 17:45 Call The Midwife
 18:40 Casualty
 19:30 Holby City
 20:25 Doctors
 20:55 Eastenders
 21:25 The Musketeers
 22:20 The Musketeers
 23:15 The Musketeers
 00:10 Doctors
 00:40 Doctors
 01:10 New Tricks
 02:00 DCI Banks
 03:00 The Kettering Incident
 03:55 Happy Valley
 04:50 Friday Night Dinner
 05:15 Hunderby
 05:40 Doctors
 Crime & Investigation Network
 09:00 Homicide Hunter
 10:00 Killer Kids
 11:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos
 12:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
 13:00 Beyond Scared Straight
 14:00 Homicide Hunter
 15:00 Nightmare In Suburbia

16:00 Killers: Behind The Myth
 17:00 The First 48
 18:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
 19:00 Beyond Scared Straight
 20:00 Homicide Hunter
 21:00 Killers: Behind The Myth
 22:00 The First 48
 23:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
 00:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
 01:00 Beyond Scared Straight
 02:00 Killers: Behind The Myth
 03:00 Homicide Hunter
 04:00 I Escaped My Killer
 05:00 I Killed My BFF

COMEDY CENTRAL

09:00 Catch A Contractor
 09:25 Catch A Contractor
 09:50 Catch A Contractor
 10:15 Catch A Contractor
 10:40 Catch A Contractor
 11:05 Lip Sync Battle
 11:30 Workaholics
 11:55 Workaholics
 12:20 Tosh.0
 12:50 Tosh.0
 13:15 Key And Peele
 13:40 Key And Peele
 14:05 Workaholics
 14:30 Workaholics
 14:55 Tosh.0
 15:20 Tosh.0
 15:45 Key And Peele
 16:10 Key And Peele
 16:35 Catch A Contractor
 17:00 Frankenfood
 17:25 Frankenfood
 17:50 Tosh.0
 18:15 Key And Peele
 18:40 Workaholics

19:05 Workaholics
 19:30 Tosh.0
 19:55 Tosh.0
 20:20 Workaholics
 20:45 Workaholics
 21:10 Workaholics
 21:35 Tosh.0
 22:00 Tosh.0
 22:30 Key And Peele
 22:55 Key And Peele
 23:25 Workaholics
 23:50 Ridiculousness
 00:15 Ridiculousness
 00:39 Ridiculousness
 01:03 Ridiculousness
 01:27 Urban Tarzan
 01:50 Urban Tarzan
 02:13 Lip Sync Battle
 02:37 Brotherhood
 03:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
 03:30 Inside Amy Schumer
 03:54 Broad City
 04:18 South Park
 04:42 6 Days To Air: The Making Of South Park
 05:30 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah

Discovery Family

09:00 Destroyed In Seconds
 09:25 Destroyed In Seconds
 09:50 Ultimate Survival
 10:40 How It's Made
 11:05 How It's Made
 11:30 Storm Chasers
 12:20 Mythbusters
 13:00 Doki
 13:25 Adventure 8: Zoo Games
 13:50 My Cat From Hell

14:40 How It's Made
 15:05 How It's Made
 15:30 Science Of The Movies
 16:20 Mythbusters
 17:10 Animal Airport
 17:35 Animal Airport
 18:00 My Cat From Hell
 18:50 Ultimate Survival
 19:40 How It's Made
 20:05 How It's Made
 20:30 Storm Chasers
 21:20 Mythbusters
 22:10 Doki
 22:35 Adventure 8: Zoo Games
 23:00 World's Funniest
 23:50 Outrageous Acts Of Psych
 00:15 Outrageous Acts Of Psych
 00:40 Science Of The Movies
 01:30 Mythbusters
 02:20 How It's Made
 02:45 How It's Made
 03:10 World's Funniest
 04:00 Outrageous Acts Of Psych
 04:25 Outrageous Acts Of Psych
 04:50 Destroyed In Seconds
 05:15 Destroyed In Seconds
 05:40 Ultimate Survival

ID HD

09:00 Deadly Sins
 09:48 I Almost Got Away With It
 10:36 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall
 11:24 Obsession: Dark Desires
 12:12 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
 13:00 Web Of Lies
 13:50 I Almost Got Away With It
 14:40 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall
 15:30 Obsession: Dark Desires
 16:20 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
 17:10 Swamp Murders
 18:00 Web Of Lies
 18:50 I Almost Got Away With It
 19:40 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall
 20:30 Obsession: Dark Desires
 21:20 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
 22:10 California Investigator
 22:35 California Investigator
 23:00 Web Of Lies
 23:50 I Almost Got Away With It
 00:40 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall
 01:30 Obsession: Dark Desires
 02:20 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
 03:10 The Perfect Murder
 04:00 The Coroner: I Speak For The Dead
 04:50 Redrum
 05:40 Vanity Fair Confidential

Disney Channel

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 Disney Cookabout
 13:45 Bunk'd
 14:10 Austin & Ally
 14:35 Shake It Up
 15:00 A.N.T. Farm
 15:25 A.N.T. Farm
 15:50 That's So Raven
 16:15 That's So Raven
 16:40 Good Luck Charlie
 17:05 Good Luck Charlie

17:30 Jessie
 17:55 Disney Mickey Mouse
 18:00 The 7D
 18:15 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
 18:40 Hank Zipzer
 19:05 Star Darlings
 19:10 Austin & Ally
 19:35 Austin & Ally
 20:00 Liv And Maddie
 20:25 Liv And Maddie
 20:50 Dog With A Blog
 21:15 Jessie
 21:40 Bunk'd
 22:05 Star Darlings
 22:10 Gravity Falls
 22:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
 23:00 Backstage
 23:25 A Bug's Life
 01:00 Descendants Wicked World
 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

Disney Junior

09:10 Henry Hugglemonster
 09:20 Calimero
 09:35 Zou
 09:45 Loopdidoo
 10:00 Art Attack
 10:25 Henry Hugglemonster
 10:35 Calimero
 10:50 Zou
 11:00 Loopdidoo
 11:15 Art Attack
 11:35 Henry Hugglemonster
 11:50 Calimero
 12:00 Zou
 12:20 Loopdidoo
 12:35 Art Attack
 13:00 The Hive
 13:10 Zou
 13:25 Loopdidoo
 13:40 Gummi Bears
 14:05 Sofia The First
 14:30 Goldie & Bear
 14:40 PJ Masks
 14:55 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
 15:10 Doc McStuffins
 15:20 Miles From Tomorrow
 15:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
 15:45 Goldie & Bear
 16:00 Sofia The First
 16:25 The Lion Guard
 16:55 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
 17:20 Minnie's Bow-Toons
 17:25 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
 17:50 The Hive
 18:00 Doc McStuffins
 18:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
 19:00 The Lion Guard
 19:30 Jake And The Neverland Pirates
 19:45 Aladdin
 20:15 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
 20:45 Doc McStuffins
 21:15 Minnie's Bow-Toons
 21:20 The Adventures Of The Disney Fairies
 21:50 Miles From Tomorrow
 22:15 Sofia The First
 22:45 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
 23:00 The Lion Guard
 23:30 Goldie & Bear
 23:55 Unbungalievable
 00:00 Goldie & Bear
 00:30 Goldie & Bear
 01:00 PJ Masks
 01:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse

02:00 Sofia The First
 02:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
 03:00 PJ Masks
 03:25 Doc McStuffins
 03:55 Aladdin
 04:20 Gummi Bears
 04:45 Minnie's Bow-Toons
 04:50 Zou
 05:05 Henry Hugglemonster
 05:20 Calimero
 05:35 Zou
 05:50 Loopdidoo

Disney XD

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

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD

09:20 Innovation Nation
 09:50 Machine Impossible
 10:45 Science Of Stupid
 11:10 Science Of Stupid
 11:40 Blow Your Mind
 12:35 Locked Up Abroad
 13:30 No Man Left Behind
 14:25 I Wouldn't Go In There: WW2 Special
 15:20 Innovation Nation
 15:45 Innovation Nation
 16:15 4 Babies A Second
 17:10 Myigrations
 18:05 Brain Games
 19:00 I Wouldn't Go In There: WW2 Special
 20:00 No Man Left Behind
 21:00 Locked Up Abroad
 22:00 4 Babies A Second
 23:00 Myigrations
 00:00 Man Hunt
 01:00 World's Weirdest
 02:00 4 Babies A Second
 02:50 Myigrations
 03:40 Man Hunt
 04:30 World's Weirdest
 05:20 Blow Your Mind



LAST KNIGHTS ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD



09:05 Sara's New Nordic Kitchen
 09:30 Eat: The Story Of Food
 10:20 Gok's Chinese Takeaway
 11:10 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
 11:35 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
 12:00 East Bites West
 12:50 Access 360 World Heritage
 13:40 Delinquent Gourmet
 14:05 Eat Street
 14:30 Sara's New Nordic Kitchen
 15:20 Eat: The Story Of Food
 16:10 Gok's Chinese Takeaway
 17:00 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
 17:25 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
 17:50 East Bites West
 18:40 Access 360 World Heritage
 19:35 Delinquent Gourmet
 20:00 Eat Street
 20:30 Sara's New Nordic Kitchen
 21:25 Eat: The Story Of Food
 22:20 Gok's Chinese Takeaway
 23:15 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
 23:40 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
 00:10 East Bites West
 01:05 Sara's New Nordic Kitchen
 01:30 Eat: The Story Of Food
 02:25 Gok's Chinese Takeaway
 03:15 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
 03:40 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
 04:05 East Bites West
 04:30 East Bites West
 04:55 Access 360 World Heritage
 05:45 Delinquent Gourmet



09:00 The Silent Storm
 11:00 Memorial Day
 13:00 Assassin's Bullet
 15:00 Before I Go To Sleep
 17:00 Viktor
 19:00 Fast Girls
 21:00 Changing Hearts
 23:00 Before I Go To Sleep
 01:00 Good People
 03:00 You're Not You
 05:00 Danny Collins



09:00 Hot In Cleveland
 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 The Bernie Mac Show
 12:30 \$#! My Dad Says
 13:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
 14:00 My Big Fat Greek Life
 14:30 Better With You
 15:00 Hot In Cleveland
 15:30 Uncle Buck
 16:00 Uncle Buck
 16:30 \$#! My Dad Says
 17:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
 18:00 The Bernie Mac Show
 18:30 My Big Fat Greek Life
 19:00 Better With You
 19:30 \$#! My Dad Says
 20:00 Last Man Standing
 20:30 Uncle Buck
 21:00 Uncle Buck
 21:30 2 Broke Girls
 22:00 2 Broke Girls



THE MAZE RUNNER ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

22:30 The Bernie Mac Show
 23:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
 00:00 Superstore
 00:30 The Goldbergs
 01:00 The Goldbergs
 01:30 New Girl
 02:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
 03:00 2 Broke Girls
 03:30 2 Broke Girls
 04:00 Getting On
 04:30 Togetherness
 05:00 The Last Man On Earth
 05:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers



09:00 Better Call Saul
 10:00 Good Morning America
 12:00 Blindspot
 13:00 C.S.I. Cyber
 14:00 Once Upon A Time
 15:00 The Amazing Race
 16:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
 17:00 C.S.I. Cyber
 18:00 Once Upon A Time
 19:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
 20:00 Live Good Morning America
 22:00 Blindspot
 23:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
 00:00 Once Upon A Time
 01:00 The Amazing Race
 02:00 Grey's Anatomy
 03:00 Chicago Med
 04:00 Survivor: Kaoh Rong
 05:00 Outlander



10:00 Close Range
 12:00 Robot Overlords
 14:00 Sword Of Vengeance
 16:00 The Maze Runner
 18:00 Jurassic Hunters
 20:00 Robot Overlords
 21:45 Last Knights
 23:45 The Maze Runner
 01:45 Independence Day
 04:15 You're Next



09:00 Turner & Hooch
 11:00 Frankenweenie
 13:00 Freaky Friday
 15:00 Annie
 17:00 Toy Story 2
 19:00 It Takes Two
 21:00 The Parent Trap
 23:15 The Pacifier
 01:00 The Adventurer: The Curse Of The Midas Box
 03:00 Marvel's Planet Hulk
 05:00 The Parent Trap



00:00 The Leftovers
 10:00 Enlightened
 10:30 Enlightened
 11:00 Bury My Heart At Wounded Knee
 13:15 Witness Protection
 15:00 Mistrial
 16:30 The Sunset Limited
 18:00 Muhammad Ali's Greatest Fight
 20:00 You Don't Know Jack
 22:30 The Sunset Limited
 00:00 Any Given Wednesday With Bill Simmons
 00:30 Last Week Tonight With John Oliver
 01:00 American Crime Story: The People vs O.J. Simpson
 02:00 Six Feet Under
 03:00 True Blood
 04:00 P. Diddy Presents Bad Boys Of Comedy
 04:30 P. Diddy Presents Bad Boys Of Comedy
 05:00 Tell Me You Love Me



09:30 Short Term 12
 11:30 Two Men In Town
 13:30 Jack Strong
 16:00 One Fine Day
 18:00 Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps
 20:30 Fearless
 22:30 Jack Strong

01:00 War Horse
 03:30 Unbroken



09:15 The Song
 11:15 Jackie & Ryan
 13:00 The Grand Seduction
 15:00 The Best Of Me
 17:00 Step Up All In
 19:00 San Andreas
 21:00 The Good Lie
 23:00 The Last 5 Years
 01:00 Ricki And The Flash
 03:00 The Lady In The Van
 05:00 This Is Where I Leave You



10:30 Jack And The Cuckoo Clock Heart
 12:00 Jock The Hero Dog
 14:00 The Heart Of The Oak
 15:30 The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie
 17:00 Pim And Pom: The Big Adventure
 18:30 Delhi Safari
 20:30 The Adventures Of Don Quixote
 22:00 Scooby-Doo! And The Beach Beastie
 22:30 The Heart Of The Oak
 00:00 The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie
 02:00 Marvel's Hulk vs. Thor & Wolverine
 04:00 The Adventures Of Don Quixote



09:45 For Greater Glory
 12:15 Persecuted
 14:00 Superfast
 15:45 McFarland, USA
 18:00 Ride
 19:45 Madoff Part 1
 21:15 Madoff Part 2
 22:45 Superfast
 00:30 Spooks: The Greater Good
 02:30 Break Point
 04:00 Ted 2



10:00 Confessions Of A Shopaholic
 12:00 Krippendorff's Tribe
 14:00 The Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy
 16:00 Confessions Of A Shopaholic
 18:00 10 Things I Hate About You
 20:00 Jack
 22:00 The Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy
 00:00 Nitro Circus: The Movie
 02:00 Hostile Hostages
 04:00 The Interview



09:25 The Queen's Worst Year
 10:20 Paul O'grady's Animal Orphans
 11:15 Murdoch Mysteries
 12:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?
 13:05 The Chase
 14:00 The Queen's Worst Year
 15:00 Paul O'grady's Animal Orphans
 16:00 Murdoch Mysteries
 16:55 Who's Doing The Dishes?
 17:50 The Chase
 18:45 Emmerdale
 19:45 Coronation Street
 20:15 Who's Doing The Dishes?
 21:10 The Chase
 22:00 Catchphrase
 22:30 Royal Stories
 22:55 Victoria
 23:50 Murdoch Mysteries



09:00 Alaska Mega Machines
 09:48 Mythbusters
 10:36 Battle Factory
 11:24 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
 12:12 How Do They Do It?
 12:36 Food Factory
 13:00 How Do They Do It?
 13:26 Mythbusters
 14:14 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
 15:02 Alaska Mega Machines
 15:50 How Do They Do It?
 16:14 Food Factory
 16:38 Battle Factory
 17:26 Mythbusters
 18:14 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
 19:02 How Do They Do It?
 19:26 Food Factory
 19:50 Alaska Mega Machines
 20:38 Battle Factory
 21:26 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
 22:14 Mythbusters
 23:02 Alaska Mega Machines
 23:50 Mythbusters
 00:40 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
 01:30 Race To Escape
 02:20 How Do They Do It?
 02:45 Food Factory
 03:10 Mega Builders
 04:00 Race To Escape
 04:50 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
 05:40 Mythbusters



09:30 Eureka
 10:20 Sanctuary
 11:10 Smallville
 12:00 Sanctuary
 16:10 Eureka
 20:15 Earth's Final Hours
 21:45 Face Off
 22:35 Sanctuary
 00:15 Sanctuary
 01:05 The Incredible Hulk
 03:00 Dark Matter
 03:50 Face Off



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

Word Search Puzzles

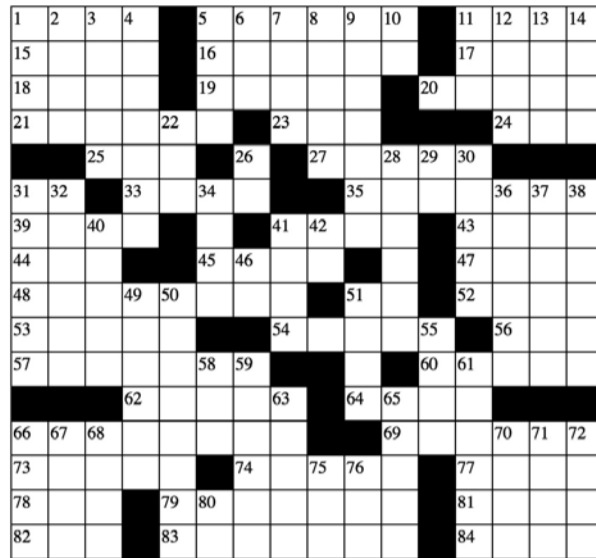
Nursing Home 1

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 47 letters spell a Mother Theresa quotation.

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

- ACTIVITIES: AIDES, BATHROOM, BEDRAIL, BEDS, BOARD GAMES, BULLETIN BOARD, CARE, CASE MEETING, CHARTS
- COMFORT: DENTURES, DINING ROOM, DOCTOR, DRUGS, EXERCISE, FALLS, FLU SHOT, FRAIL, GLUCOSE METER, HAIRDRESSER, HALLWAYS
- HELP: INCONTINENCE, LAUNDRY, LINERS, MAGAZINES, MEDICAL GLOVES, MEMORY LOSS, MOISTURIZER, MUSIC, NAIL CLIPPERS, NEEDLE, NURSES
- OUTINGS: PET THERAPY, PHYSIOTHERAPIST, PUZZLES, READING, RESIDENTS, ROUNDS, SCRABBLE, SENIORS, SHAVE, SHOWER
- SING ALONG: SLEEPING PILL, STAFF MEETINGS, SUPPER, TABLES, TELEVISION, TRANSFER BELT, URINAL, VOLUNTEERS, WANDERING, WHEELCHAIR

CROSSWORD 1372



ACROSS

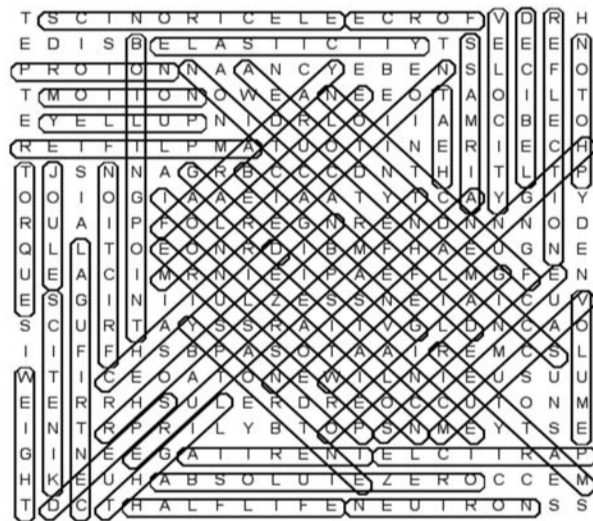
- An official language of the Republic of South Africa.
- A structure that allows people or vehicles to cross an obstacle such as a river or canal or railway etc..
- An informal term for a father.
- Fast-growing herbaceous evergreen tree of South America having a broad trunk with high water content and dark green oval leaves.
- Small genus of evergreen trees of tropical America and western Africa.
- An Indian nursemaid who looks after children.
- Country of southeastern Asia that extends southward along the isthmus of Kra to the Malay peninsula.
- A genus of Pyralidae.
- Any plant of the genus Erica.
- The quarter of many North African cities in which the citadel is located.
- The month following April and preceding June.
- Tag the base runner to get him out.
- An ugly evil-looking old woman.
- An assertion of a right (as to money or property).
- A soft heavy toxic malleable metallic element.
- Cheap showy jewelry or ornament or clothing.
- Illusory auditory perception of strange nonverbal sounds.
- (British) A recreational facility including a swimming pool for water sports.
- Worthless people.
- Fermented alcoholic beverage similar to but heavier than beer.
- A mountainous landlocked communist state in southeastern Asia.
- Money in the form of bills or coins.
- Not based upon or representing political parties.
- Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.
- Put to use.
- An ancient city on the Nile in Egypt.
- A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
- Of or relating to or characteristic of Tibet or its people or their language.
- The large trunk artery that carries blood from the left ventricle of the heart to branch arteries.
- Wasting of the body during a chronic disease.
- A large number or amount.
- Receives blood from lower limbs and abdominal organs and empties into the posterior part of the right atrium of the heart.
- New Zealand timber tree resembling the cypress.

DOWN

- The dialect of Albanian spoken in southern Albania and in areas of Greece and Italy.
- Type genus of the Amiidae.
- Cause to be embarrassed.
- Backache affecting the lumbar region or lower back.
- German organist and contrapuntist (1685-1750).
- A nucleic acid that transmits genetic information from DNA to the cytoplasm.
- Severe diabetes mellitus with an early onset.
- English theoretical physicist who applied relativity theory to quantum mechanics and predicted the existence of antimatter and the positron (1902-1984).
- Common gray wild goose of Europe.
- (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
- (in golf) The standard number of strokes set for each hole on a golf course, or for the entire course.
- The 16th letter of the Hebrew alphabet.
- Large burrowing rodent of South and Central America.
- According to the Old Testament he was a pagan king of Israel and husband of Jezebel (9th century BC).
- Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
- A doctor's degree in religion.
- Any of various spiny trees or shrubs of the genus Acacia.
- (Greek mythology) A maiden seduced by Zeus.
- A small constellation in the polar region of the southern hemisphere near the Southern Cross and Chamaeleon.
- A member of the Siouan people of southeastern Mississippi.
- (Norse mythology) One of the Aesir known for his beauty and skill with bow and skis.
- Of or relating to a directionless magnitude.
- Any of several cultivated grapevines that produce sweet white grapes.
- A member of the Semitic speaking people of northern Ethiopia.
- The brightest star in Cygnus.
- Spanish painter best known for his portraits (1746-1828).
- A very poisonous metallic element that has three allotropic forms.
- A highly unstable radioactive element (the heaviest of the halogen series).
- Pleasing by delicacy or grace.
- A language spoken by the Atakapa people of the Gulf coast of Louisiana and Texas.
- The compass point that is one point west of northwest.
- A quantity of no importance.
- A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
- A state in the western United States.
- United States assassin of President John F. Kennedy (1939-1963).
- Formerly a term of respect for important white Europeans in colonial India.
- Jordan's port.
- Toward the mouth or oral region.
- A loose material consisting of grains of rock or coral.
- The sixth month of the civil year.
- God of love and erotic desire.
- (Old Testament) In Judeo-Christian mythology.
- Fiddler crabs.
- The most common computer memory which can be used by programs to perform necessary tasks while the computer is on.
- Angular distance above the horizon (especially of a celestial object).

Yesterday's Solution

Physics 2



- ABSOLUTE ZERO, ADHESION, AERODYNAMICS, AIR MASS, AMPLIFIER, BIG BANG, BOILING POINT, CENTRIFUGAL, CHAIN REACTION, DECIBEL, DIFFRACTION, DISTANCE
- DRAG, ELASTICITY, ELECTRONICS, ENTROPY, FARADAY, FORCE, FRICTION, FUNCTION, GALILEO, HALF LIFE, HEAT, INERTIA
- IONIZATION, JOULE, KINETICS, LIGHT, MATTER, MOLECULE, MOTION, NEUTRON, NIELS BOHR, PARTICLE, PHOTON, PRESSURE
- PROTON, PULLEY, REFLECTION, SCIENCE, SPEED, TEMPERATURE, TORQUE, VACUUM, VELOCITY, VOLUME, WAVELENGTH, WEIGHT

The hidden message is:
THE DISTANCE BETWEEN INSANITY AND GENIUS IS MEASURED ONLY BY SUCCESS

Daily SuDoku

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

hard

Yesterday's Solution

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

medium

Yesterday's Solution

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



HONOLULU: Keith Lee, center, a lawyer representing the Waianae Coast Health Center, holds hands with Rachel Marrero as her attorney Richard Fried looks on at a news conference on Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2016. —AP

\$4.2M PAYOUT AFTER DEATH AT CLINIC OF MAN WITH SORE THROAT

HONOLULU: The widow and children of a man who went to a rural Hawaii health center with a sore throat in 2013 and ended up dead will receive a \$4.2 million settlement from the federal government, the widow's lawyer said Wednesday. Antonio Marrero, 32, went to the emergency room of Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center, where a doctor determined he had an abscess in his tonsils and arranged for him to see an ear, nose and throat specialist, lawyer Richard Fried said.

Then the doctor decided to further evaluate him under sedation, but Marrero lost consciousness and died, Fried said. Before sedating him, the doctor should have known Marrero weighed nearly 300 pounds, which would make it difficult to protect his airway, the lawsuit filed by Fried said. There was no anesthesiologist there, and the doctor gave Marrero too much of the sedative drug, Fried said.

At a news conference in Fried's office to announce the settlement, Marrero's wife, Rachel, recalled her shock when she was told that the father of her three young sons had died. She told health center workers: "He just had a sore throat, what do you mean he passed?" After the news conference, the health center's executives hugged her and offered condolences. — AP

TREAT OR MONITOR EARLY PROSTATE CANCER? 10-YR SURVIVAL SAME

STUDY TESTED AND COMPARED BOTH OPTIONS

LONDON: Men with early prostate cancer who choose to closely monitor their disease are just as likely to survive at least 10 years as those who have surgery or radiation, finds a major study that directly tested and compared these options.

Survival from prostate cancer was so high - 99 percent, regardless of which approach men had - that the results call into question not only what treatment is best but also whether any treatment at all is needed for early-stage cases. And that in

turn adds to concern about screening with PSA blood tests, because screening is worthwhile only if finding cancer earlier saves lives. "There's been no hard evidence that treating early disease makes a difference," said Dr. Freddie Hamdy of the University of Oxford, the study's leader. "Because we cannot determine very well which is aggressive cancer and which is not, men and clinicians can both be anxious about whether the disease will progress," he said. "And that pushes them toward treatment."

Struggle to convince

Dr. Otis Brawley, chief medical officer for the American Cancer Society, welcomed the results but said it would be a struggle to convince men diagnosed with early prostate cancer in the US to skip surgery or radiation. He said he often suggests monitoring but "it's a challenging process to explain to people that certain cancers just don't need to be treated." "Our aggressive approach to screening and treating has resulted in more than 1 million American men getting needless treatment," said Brawley, who had no role in the study.

The research was published online Wednesday in the New England Journal of Medicine. It was paid for by Britain's National Institute for Health Research. The study involved more than 82,000 men in the United Kingdom, aged 50 to 69, who had tests for PSA, or prostate specific antigen. High levels can signal prostate cancer but also may signal more harmless conditions, including natural enlargement that occurs with age. Researchers focused on the men diagnosed with early prostate cancer, where the disease is small and confined to the prostate. Of those men, 1,643 agreed to be randomly assigned to get surgery, radiation or active monitoring. That involves blood tests every three to six months, counseling, and consideration of treatment only if signs suggested worsening disease. — AP



LONDON: In this photo taken on Monday, Sept. 12, 2016, chief investigator Professor Freddie Hamdy, centre, and co-researchers Professor Jenny Donovan, left, and Professor David Neal, right, sit during a press briefing to announce the results of the world's first and largest trial into treatment for prostate cancer. —AP

CLINIC
PAGE



Kuwait Times

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Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
 وفهد علي المخيزيم
 Consultant Pediatrician استشاري أطفال
 M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAFP. PEM

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



KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (15/09/2016 TO 21/09/2016)

SHARQIA-1		FANAR-5		AVENUES-7		AL-KOUT.3	
BEN-HUR	11:45 AM	BEN-HUR	11:45 AM	KILL ZONE 2	11:30 AM	SAWALIF TAFASH: JAZERAT AI HILAMAYA	1:00 PM
BEN-HUR	2:00 PM	BEN-HUR	2:00 PM	KILL ZONE 2	2:00 PM	LIGHTS OUT	1:45 PM
BLAIR WITCH	4:15 PM	BLAIR WITCH	4:15 PM	BAAR BAAR DEKHO- Hindi	4:30 PM	FRI	
BEN-HUR	6:15 PM	BLAIR WITCH	6:15 PM	BLOOD FATHER	7:30 PM	BEN-HUR	3:30 PM
BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	8:30 PM	BLAIR WITCH	8:15 PM	KILL ZONE 2	9:30 PM	LIGHTS OUT	5:45 PM
BLAIR WITCH	10:45 PM	BLAIR WITCH	10:15 PM	KILL ZONE 2	12:15 AM	BEN-HUR	7:30 PM
BLAIR WITCH	12:45 AM	BLAIR WITCH	12:15 AM			SAWALIF TAFASH: JAZERAT AI HILAMAYA	9:45 PM
						LIGHTS OUT	12:05 AM
SHARQIA-2		MARINA-1		AVENUES-8		AL-KOUT.4	
PETE'S DRAGON	12:45 PM	SNOWDEN	11:45 AM	BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	12:45 PM	SNOWDEN	11:30 AM
PETE'S DRAGON -3D	3:00 PM	SNOWDEN	2:15 PM	BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	3:00 PM	SNOWDEN	2:00 PM
PETE'S DRAGON	5:15 PM	BEN-HUR	4:45 PM	PETE'S DRAGON	7:30 PM	SNOWDEN	4:30 PM
ASHAN KHARGEN	7:30 PM	SNOWDEN	7:00 PM	BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	9:45 PM	SNOWDEN	7:00 PM
ASHAN KHARGEN	9:45 PM	BEN-HUR	9:30 PM	BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	12:05 AM	SNOWDEN	9:30 PM
ASHAN KHARGEN	12:05 AM	SNOWDEN	12:05 AM			KILL ZONE 2	12:05 AM
						SNOWDEN	
SHARQIA-3		MARINA-2		AVENUES-9		BAIRAQ-1	
SNOWDEN	1:00 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN	1:00 PM	BLAIR WITCH	11:45 AM	PETE'S DRAGON -3D	12:30 PM
SULLY	1:30 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN	3:15 PM	BLAIR WITCH	1:45 PM	PETE'S DRAGON -3D	2:45 PM
SNOWDEN	3:30 PM	BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	5:30 PM	BLAIR WITCH	3:45 PM	PETE'S DRAGON -3D	5:00 PM
SULLY	6:00 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN	7:45 PM	BEN-HUR -3D	5:45 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN	7:15 PM
SNOWDEN	8:00 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN	10:00 PM	BLAIR WITCH	8:15 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN	9:30 PM
SULLY	10:30 PM	BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	12:15 AM	BLAIR WITCH	10:15 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN	11:45 PM
SNOWDEN	12:30 AM				12:15 AM		
MUHALAB-1		MARINA-3		AVENUES-10		BAIRAQ-2	
BEN-HUR	12:00 PM	SULLY	12:00 PM	LIGHTS OUT	11:30 AM	SULLY	11:45 AM
BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	2:30 PM	SULLY	2:00 PM	SAWALIF TAFASH: JAZERAT AI HILAMAYA	1:30 PM	SULLY	1:45 PM
BEN-HUR	4:45 PM	PETE'S DRAGON	4:15 PM	LIGHTS OUT	4:00 PM	SULLY	3:45 PM
LIGHTS OUT	7:15 PM	PETE'S DRAGON	6:30 PM	SAWALIF TAFASH: JAZERAT AI HILAMAYA	6:00 PM	PETE'S DRAGON	6:00 PM
BEN-HUR	9:15 PM	SULLY	8:45 PM	SAWALIF TAFASH: JAZERAT AI HILAMAYA	8:30 PM	PETE'S DRAGON	8:00 PM
BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	11:45 PM	BLAIR WITCH	10:45 PM	LIGHTS OUT	11:00 PM	BEN-HUR	10:15 PM
		BLAIR WITCH	12:45 AM		1:00 AM	SULLY	12:45 AM
MUHALAB-2		AVENUES-1		AVENUES-11		BAIRAQ-3	
SNOWDEN	12:30 PM	BEN-HUR	11:30 AM	PETE'S DRAGON -CINESCAPE 11-3D	12:45 PM	SNOWDEN	1:00 PM
SNOWDEN	3:00 PM	BLOOD FATHER	2:00 PM	SULLY -CINESCAPE 11	3:00 PM	SNOWDEN	3:30 PM
SULLY	5:30 PM	ANTBOY 3	4:15 PM	PETE'S DRAGON -CINESCAPE 11-3D	5:15 PM	SAWALIF TAFASH: JAZERAT AI HILAMAYA	6:00 PM
SNOWDEN	7:30 PM	ANTBOY 3	6:15 PM	SULLY -CINESCAPE 11	7:30 PM	SAWALIF TAFASH: JAZERAT AI HILAMAYA	8:15 PM
SULLY	10:00 PM	BEN-HUR	8:15 PM	SULLY -CINESCAPE 11	9:45 PM	BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	10:30 PM
SNOWDEN	12:05 AM	BEN-HUR	10:45 PM	SULLY -CINESCAPE 11	12:05 AM	BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	12:45 AM
		BEN-HUR	1:00 AM				
MUHALAB-3		AVENUES-2		360°- 1		PLAZA	
PETE'S DRAGON	1:15 PM	PETE'S DRAGON -3D-4DX	1:00 PM	PETE'S DRAGON -3D	1:15 PM	FREAKY ALI- HINDI	4:15 PM
SULLY	1:30 PM	PETE'S DRAGON -3D-4DX	3:15 PM	PETE'S DRAGON	3:30 PM	ANN MARIA KALIPPILAANU - Malayalam	6:30 PM
PETE'S DRAGON -3D	3:30 PM	PETE'S DRAGON -3D-4DX	5:30 PM	PETE'S DRAGON -3D	5:45 PM	THU+FRI	
PETE'S DRAGON	5:45 PM	PETE'S DRAGON -3D-4DX	7:45 PM	PETE'S DRAGON -3D	8:00 PM	FREAKY ALI- HINDI	6:30 PM
ASHAN KHARGEN	8:00 PM	BEN-HUR -3D-4DX	10:15 PM	BEN-HUR -3D	10:15 PM	NO THU+FRI	
ASHAN KHARGEN	10:15 PM	BEN-HUR -3D-4DX	12:45 AM	BEN-HUR	12:45 AM	IRU MUGAN - Tamil	9:00 PM
ASHAN KHARGEN	12:30 AM	BEN-HUR -3D-4DX				FRI	
				360°- 2		BAAR BAAR DEKHO- Hindi	9:00 PM
FANAR-1		AVENUES-3		BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	12:15 PM	NO FRI	
PETE'S DRAGON	12:15 PM	SNOWDEN	11:45 AM	BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	2:30 PM		
PETE'S DRAGON	2:30 PM	SNOWDEN	2:30 PM	BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	4:45 PM		
PETE'S DRAGON	4:45 PM	SNOWDEN	5:00 PM	BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	7:00 PM		
SULLY	7:00 PM	SNOWDEN	7:30 PM	BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	9:30 PM		
SULLY	9:00 PM	SNOWDEN	10:00 PM	BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	11:45 PM		
SULLY	11:00 PM	SNOWDEN	12:45 AM			LAILA	
SULLY	1:00 AM			360°- 3		SULLY	4:00 PM
FANAR-2		AVENUES-4		BEN-HUR	12:30 PM	PETE'S DRAGON	6:00 PM
SNOWDEN	12:00 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN	12:30 PM	BEN-HUR	3:00 PM	SNOWDEN	8:15 PM
KILL ZONE 2	2:30 PM	BEN-HUR	2:45 PM	BEN-HUR	5:30 PM	BLAIR WITCH	10:45 PM
SNOWDEN	5:00 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN	5:00 PM	BEN-HUR	8:00 PM		
KILL ZONE 2	7:30 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN	7:15 PM	SULLY	10:30 PM	AJIAL.1	
SNOWDEN	10:00 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN	9:30 PM	SULLY	12:45 AM	IRU MUGAN - Tamil	4:00 PM
SNOWDEN	12:30 AM	BEN-HUR	11:45 PM			IRU MUGAN - Tamil	7:00 PM
				AL-KOUT.1		IRU MUGAN - Tamil	10:00 PM
FANAR-3		AVENUES-5		SULLY	1:00 PM		
BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	1:30 PM	PETE'S DRAGON	11:30 AM	SULLY	3:00 PM	AJIAL.2	
BEN-HUR	3:45 PM	PETE'S DRAGON -3D	1:45 PM	SULLY	5:00 PM	BAAR BAAR DEKHO- Hindi	3:30 PM
BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	6:00 PM	SULLY	4:00 PM	SULLY	7:00 PM	BAAR BAAR DEKHO- Hindi	6:30 PM
BEN-HUR	8:15 PM	PETE'S DRAGON	6:00 PM	BLAIR WITCH	9:00 PM	BAAR BAAR DEKHO- Hindi	9:30 PM
BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	10:30 PM	SULLY	8:15 PM	SULLY	11:00 PM		
BEN-HUR	12:45 AM	SULLY	10:30 PM	BLAIR WITCH	1:00 AM		
		BLAIR WITCH	12:45 AM			AJIAL.3	
FANAR-4		AVENUES-6		AL-KOUT.2		FREAKY ALI- HINDI	4:15 PM
SULLY	1:00 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN	12:15 PM	PETE'S DRAGON	11:30 AM	FREAKY ALI- HINDI	6:30 PM
SULLY	3:00 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN	2:30 PM	PETE'S DRAGON	1:30 PM	FREAKY ALI- HINDI	9:30 PM
ASHAN KHARGEN	5:00 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN	4:45 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN	3:45 PM		
SAWALIF TAFASH: JAZERAT AI HILAMAYA	7:15 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN	7:00 PM	PETE'S DRAGON	6:00 PM	AJIAL.4	
ASHAN KHARGEN	9:30 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN	9:15 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN	8:15 PM	ANN MARIA KALIPPILAANU - Malayalam	3:30 PM
ASHAN KHARGEN	11:45 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN	11:30 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN	10:30 PM	ANN MARIA KALIPPILAANU - Malayalam	6:30 PM
				ASHAN KHARGEN	12:45 AM	ANN MARIA KALIPPILAANU - Malayalam	9:30 PM

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UNITED KINGDOM: An undated handout image released by EDF Energy in London on July 28, 2016, shows a computer generated image (CGI) of the French energy producer's proposed two nuclear reactors, Hinkley Point C (HPC), at their Hinkley Point power plant in south-west England. —AFP

BRITAIN APPROVES HINKLEY POINT NUCLEAR DEAL FIRST NUCLEAR PLANT IN A GENERATION

LONDON: Britain finally gave the go-ahead yesterday for Hinkley Point, its first nuclear plant in a generation, but set conditions to address concerns over China's role in a flagship project for Europe's nuclear sector.

The announcement, welcomed by its French and Chinese backers, came two months after Prime Minister Theresa May caused shockwaves by ordering a review of the £18 billion (21 billion euro, \$24 billion) deal brokered under her predecessor, David Cameron.

China has a one-third stake in the project and analysts had warned that Britain could have jeopardised relations with the world's second-largest economy if it scrapped the deal while critics said it could give China the power to turn off the lights. Jean-Bernard Levy, chief executive of the French state-owned power company EDF, said the move "relaunches nuclear power in Europe".

EDF's board had already approved its participation in the project in southwest England in July when May's government suddenly announced it was pausing it. "We have decided to proceed with the first new nuclear power station for a generation," Britain's Business Secretary Greg

Clark said in a statement, while pledging fresh measures "to enhance security".

He told parliament that the plant's construction would create 26,000 jobs and it would guarantee seven percent of Britain's electricity needs for 60 years. It will be "a huge boost to the economy", he said.

'National security' test

One of Downing Street's prime concerns was over the security implications of allowing China to take such a large stake in a critical infrastructure project. Beijing's state-run China General Nuclear Corporation (CGN), the Chinese investor in Hinkley Point, was also set to take the lead in the Bradwell power station project in Essex in southeast England.

But Clark's ministry explained the government was taking steps to ensure it could intervene to stop any sale of EDF's stake and to give the government more control over future nuclear projects. Olivia Gippner, a fellow in EU-China relations at the London School of Economics, said the framework was aimed at China but "by introducing a general national security test rather than

focusing only on Chinese investment, this is a very diplomatic solution".

CGN said in a statement on social network Weibo it was "delighted" at Thursday's announcement and would now "move forward and deliver" on Hinkley Point, as well as the Bradwell plant. "The Bradwell plant will be significant since it signifies a shift in the bilateral relationship," Gippner said. "As China was developing its own nuclear industry, it first used European and US technology and safety standards. Bradwell would mean exporting the Hualong One reactor type to Europe for the first time".

'Huge' obstacles

CGN is set to finance £6.0 billion of the cost of the Hinkley Point plant, with EDF providing the remaining £12 billion. EDF's share price was down 1.5 percent in afternoon trading on the Paris stock exchange following concern about how the company will fund construction.

But French Prime Minister Manuel Valls hailed the deal as "excellent news" for France's nuclear sector and domestic employment. May called

French President Francois Hollande on Wednesday evening to tell him that the British government had approved the project, the French presidency said. Critics have focused on an electricity price guarantee for EDF of £92.5 for every megawatt hour of power produced by Hinkley for the next 35 years, rising with inflation, despite falling energy prices.

Campaigners against Hinkley Point meanwhile handed in a petition with more than 300,000 signatures to May's Downing Street office on Thursday with environmental pressure group Greenpeace.

The Hinkley facility will not be operational until 2025 — two years later than originally planned when the deal was first unveiled.

Steve Thomas, emeritus professor of energy policy at London's Greenwich University, said there was still "a number of major hurdles to get through before Hinkley can go ahead" including financing at EDF's end. "EDF has to find the money, which it doesn't currently have," he said, listing also the problems encountered with the EPR, a new type of reactor design set to be used at Hinkley. —AFP



YANGON, MYANMAR: In this Nov. 14, 2014, file photo, US President Barack Obama, right, walks out with Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi at her home before the start of their joint news conference. — AP

OBAMA'S VOW TO LIFT ECONOMIC SANCTIONS WELCOMED IN MYANMAR

TO RESTORE LONG-LOST TRADE BENEFITS

YANGON, MYANMAR: Myanmar economists and businessmen yesterday welcomed President Barack Obama's announcement that the US will lift economic sanctions and restore long-lost trade benefits to the Southeast Asian country as it emerges from half a century of oppressive military rule.

The nation of more than 50 million is rich in natural resources, and before a military coup in the early 1960s it was among the region's stronger economies. Today it's among Asia's least developed and poorest countries, with more than a quarter of the population living in poverty. Experts hope the lifting of sanctions helps change that by making it easier for US companies to invest and do business here. "There will be more trading and investment as the result

of lifting sanctions on our country. It will really benefit the citizens of this country and be a great hope for Myanmar's economic development," said Khin Maung Nyo, a Myanmar economist.

Sanctions imposed in 1997

The United States first imposed sanctions on Myanmar in 1997, when the military junta ruled. In 2011, the junta gave way to a quasi-civilian government that was dominated by former military officials but still ushered in some democratic reforms, leading the US to restore full diplomatic relations and ease sanctions.

Myanmar's new government took power in April after the party led by pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi won a landslide election victory late last year. The

military still retains power in the government, in part through a constitution that effectively bars Suu Kyi from the presidency. She is formally state counselor and foreign minister but is universally viewed as the country's leader.

Sitting beside Suu Kyi in the Oval Office on Wednesday, Obama said the US will "soon" lift restrictions on military-owned companies and officials and associates of the former ruling junta.

Suu Kyi said it was time to remove remaining sanctions, which have kept US companies and banks leery of involvement in one of Asia's last untapped markets. But the military still retains major political and economic interests, and some rights groups said the US should continue applying pressure on Myanmar to change. Massive illegal trade in goods including jade and timber continues, as does civil war with many ethnic minorities. "Lifting all sanctions now will embolden the Myanmar military and its partners," said Matthew Smith of Fortify Rights. "This decision was hasty and fails to recognize political realities on the ground."

Khin Maung Nyo, however, said it is impossible to single out Myanmar military interests without making the entire country suffer. "In Myanmar, there are no businesses which are not related to cronies or military. But we do hope that they change according to the political changes, not only for their own profit but also benefiting the country and its people," he said.

Ye Hein Aung, a member of Myanmar Center for Responsible Business, said the lifting of sanctions will improve not only imports and exports but banking, and would make Myanmar less dependent on regional trade. "When we have more economic development, grassroots-level people will have more hope to have a better life in the future. The current economic situations really hurt the grassroots-level people right now," Ye Hein Aung said. — AP

EU HOPES LICENSING SYSTEM WILL HELP SAVE INDONESIAN FORESTS

JAKARTA: The European Union has admitted Indonesia to a special licensing system it hopes will prevent the illegally felled tropical timber that makes up a substantial part of the country's wood production from being shipped to the 28-nation bloc.

The EU said yesterday that Indonesia is the first country to qualify for the licenses. It will mean that traders of goods such as wooden furniture, plywood and paper that earn the certification will find it easier to do business with Europe. But some environmental and civil society groups are already concerned the licensing system could become a conduit for illegal timber from a country where tropical forests are being cut down at an epic rate.

The EU has been trying to implement its timber system internationally for over a decade and over the same time Indonesia has developed its own legal wood verification scheme that has become a key part of its admission to the EU's program. "We do believe the system is credible," said Charles-Michel Geurts, deputy head of the EU mission to Indonesia, who emphasized the lengthy process to establish it reflected substantial effort in countering deep-seated problems in Indonesia's forestry industry. "But today is the start date, not the finish."

Struggle to combat illegal logging

Indonesia has struggled for years to combat illegal logging that destroys the tropical forest habitat of unique animal species and deprives the government of significant revenue that could be used to improve basic services for a largely poor population of more than 250 million. A study by the country's anti-corruption commission estimated that the commercial value of undeclared logging amounted to \$60.7 billion to \$81.4 billion between 2003 and 2014. The study released in October last year said official statistics on timber production capture less than a quarter of what is cut down.

Fires deliberately set by agricultural conglomerates and small-time farmers to clear forests and peatland for plantations also contribute to deforestation and are responsible for the unhealthy haze that chokes a swathe of Indonesia and neighboring countries each year.

Under the EU system, Indonesia will be able to issue the special licenses to producers using timber that it believes complies with environmental, social and economic laws. Third party certifiers issue the licenses and the overall process will be monitored by environmental groups. Indonesia will be able to issue the licenses from Nov. 15, the EU announced Thursday.

Christopher Barr, executive director of Woods & Wayside International, said a "critical weakness" of Indonesia's timber verification system is that it largely focuses on administrative compliance and falls short in the area of field checks, including surprise inspections, to ensure logs are harvested from fully legal areas.

The system was designed to audit timber from selective forestry concessions but in the past decade increased volumes of wood have been produced through the clearing of forests for palm oil and pulpwood plantations and other uses, he said.

Lafadio Cortesi, Asia director of the Rainforest Action Network, said it may be premature for the EU to create a "green lane" that expedites the export of Indonesian timber and timber products.

Deforestation in Indonesia often goes hand in hand with human rights violations such as companies grabbing the traditional lands of communities, he said.

The scale of illegal and unreported logging in Indonesia could be beyond the scope of civil society groups and others to effectively monitor and when violations are identified, the process for dealing with them is cumbersome and lengthy, he said. "There is not adequate capacity in the system," said Cortesi. "The government has had to contract out auditing." — AP



INDONESIA: In this Friday, Jan. 7, 2016 file photo, allegedly illegal logs are moved downstream using the river current at a conservation area in Sungai Mangkutub, Central Kalimantan. — AP

REPUBLICAN DEAL AVERTS VOTE ON IMPEACHING HEAD OF IRS

WASHINGTON: A last-minute deal between conservatives and GOP leaders in the House has averted votes expected Thursday on a measure to impeach the commissioner of the IRS.

Instead, IRS Commissioner John Koskinen will testify before Congress next week. The conservative House Freedom Caucus celebrated the development as a win late Wednesday, as conservatives had long pushed GOP leaders for impeachment hearings against Koskinen. They accuse him of obstructing a congressional investigation into the treatment of tea party groups seeking tax exemptions.

But the agreement canceling the votes came only after conservatives themselves predicted that their impeachment resolution was going to get sidelined by Democratic and Republican opposition Thursday. So instead they set-

led for a hearing next Wednesday, which would result in an impeachment vote only after the November presidential election, if ever.

"This hearing will give every American the opportunity to hear John Koskinen answer under oath why he misled Congress, allowed evidence pertinent to an investigation to be destroyed, and defied Congressional subpoenas and preservation orders," the Freedom Caucus said in a statement. "It will also remove any lingering excuses for those who have been hesitant to proceed with this course of action."

Koskinen has disputed such claims in private meetings with House Republicans in recent days, while in public the agency insisted Wednesday that he "remains focused on the critical work needed for the nation's tax system." — AP



MAKUHARI, JAPAN: A visitor tries out a PlayStation VR headgear device at the Tokyo Game Show on Thursday, Sept. 15, 2016. — AP

VR ARRIVES AT TOKYO GAME SHOW, COUNTED ON TO REVIVE INDUSTRY WAY OF THE FUTURE?

CHIBA, JAPAN: Virtual reality has arrived for real at the Tokyo Game Show, one of the world's biggest exhibitions for the latest in fun and games.

That's evident everywhere. Players at the booths are donning chunky headgear covering their eyes and ears, immersed in their own worlds, shooting imaginary monsters or dancing with virtual partners, at Makuhari Messe hall in the Tokyo suburb of Chiba.

The show, which gave a preview to reporters yesterday ahead of its opening to the public over the weekend, features 614 companies demonstrating more than 1,500 game software titles. It's still anyone's guess how VR will play out as a business in years ahead. But most everyone agrees that's the way of the future. And Yasuo Takahashi, director at Sony Interactive Entertainment, the game division of Japanese electronics and entertainment giant Sony Corp., believes 2016 will mark VR's debut year, helping revive an industry that has languished with the advent of smart phones.

"Up to now games were played on a TV set. With VR, players can enter the worlds portrayed in games. It's a totally new experience," he said at Sony's booth at the show, stressing that VR can't really be played on a cell phone. That also meant VR's impact will be widespread, in genres such as movies and virtual travel, he added.

One reason for Sony's high hopes for VR: Tokyo-based Sony's PlayStation VR headgear device, going on sale next month for about \$400, is the first that

might put VR within reach for many regular homes, according to some analysts. Rival VR headsets cost more: Oculus Rift goes for about \$600, and HTC Vive \$800.

It's applications vary

Although VR's applications vary from job training and real-estate previews to news reporting and education, it's expected to take off in games first. A recent survey of 635 industry experts including startup executives and investors, carried out jointly by legal company Perkins Cole and Upload, cited "lack of compelling content" as the biggest challenge for VR's future.

Respondents were most focused on games. They also cited obstacles to VR's popularity, such as cost, bulky hardware and technical glitches. But most respondents were planning to invest in VR, if cautiously at first.

Tetsuya Mizuguchi, founder and president of the game software maker Enhance, believes VR is exactly the kind of technology his game "Rez Infinite" has been waiting for. The game's original version went on sale in 2001 for an earlier console called Sega Dreamcast.

Dreamlike experience

The new VR version of the game, one of the highlights of the Tokyo Game Show, delivers an immersive, dreamlike experience. Once players put on the headgear and earphones, they find themselves virtually flying through an abyss-like universe resembling outer space or the bottom of the ocean, a black that seems to spread in all directions.

Then colorful geometric designs pop up, bursting in flashes of light with the aim of the cursor or a shift of a VR player's vision. Electronic music, synchronized to the player's moves and virtual explosions, adds to the thrill. "This is about a new way of storytelling. It's a new journey. And so this is not confined to just realism, but it can provoke the creative imagination," Mizuguchi told The Associated Press this week at his Tokyo office.

"I want to move people in new ways. As a concept, it's about appealing to the senses. But it's actually also very emotional. VR can liberate one's experience from the film frame, which has existed over the 130 years of movies."

The visual abstractness and musical focus of Mizuguchi's game contrast with other VR games that seek to more literally approximate reality, using VR's ability to convey an illusion of 3-D depth and 360-degree surroundings.

Mizuguchi stressed that his designers, and Sony, were careful to make sure VR didn't make players nauseous. "If someone's first experience with VR turns out to be negative, there might never be a second experience," he said.

Hisakazu Hirabayashi, game analyst and president of game industry consulting firm Interact, says VR is so powerful that creators are still choosing to tone it down to minimize potential risks, including venturing into untested territory such as VR pornography. "VR is a fabulous technology, but it can be even used for torture," he said. "So game creators are still trying to play it safe." — AP

US GOVERNMENT INACTION IS HAMPERING ECONOMIC GROWTH

WASHINGTON: As the US economy enters its eighth year of its recovery from the Great Recession, one major factor is slowing its growth: Government gridlock.

That finding emerges from a report by Harvard Business School being officially released Thursday. The report concludes that the tepid pace of the recovery increasingly reflects the inability of President Barack Obama and the Republican-led Congress to reach agreement on programs to bolster US competitiveness worldwide.

Prosperity has become more concentrated among fewer Americans, and the nation's competitive edge is slipping as factors that have helped drive growth in the past are viewed as worsening. The US political system, tax code, health care system, public schools, regulation and infrastructure are now all viewed as weaknesses for the economy, according to surveys of Harvard Business School alumni, students and the public compiled in the annual report.

"We have reached the conclusion that the paralysis in the US political system is one of the gravest threats to our economic competitiveness," said Jan Rivkin, a professor of business administration and co-author of the report.

Competitiveness definition

The report defines competitiveness as being characteristic of an economy that enables companies to succeed in domestic and international markets while raising living standards for average people. One challenge is that while average Americans depend on education, roadways, public transit and health care to thrive, the survey found those parts of the economy to be weakening.

A greater share of Harvard alums say the economy is becoming less competitive, reversing improvements documented in prior reports. The proportion who expect declining competitiveness had dropped from 71 percent in 2011 to 42 percent in 2015. That share then rose to 50 percent this year.

There are still many strengths that help fuel US competitiveness, including established financial markets and major research universities. But many of those strengths often benefit major companies and clusters of highly skilled workers without necessarily spreading through the entire economy.

The report found that few Americans have developed opinions about policies to improve economic growth. Fully 46 percent, according to the report, held no opinion about infrastructure spending, a vital need touted by both Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump on the presidential campaign trail.

Majorities failed to register any opinion on creating a sustainable federal budget, fixing distortions caused by trade, rewriting the corporate tax code or streamlining regulations for businesses.

Rivkin said those responses point to the complexity of the issues and the lack of information in the public debate.

The findings dovetail with signs that the election is causing many companies to hold back on spending.

Roughly a third of US chief financial officers surveyed said their companies will limit their investment plans until after the election and the new president shows how he or she will govern, according to a poll released Wednesday by Duke University. — AP



WASHINGTON: In this Tuesday, Sept. 6, 2016, file photo, an American flag flies over Capitol Hill. — AP

UBER GIVES RIDERS A PREVIEW OF THE DRIVERLESS FUTURE

INITIAL TRIAL TO EASE PEOPLE'S FEAR

PITTSBURGH: Uber riders in Pittsburgh can get a glimpse of the future by summoning a car capable of handling most of the tasks of driving on its own.

On Wednesday, a fleet of self-driving Ford Fusions began picking up Uber riders who opted to participate in a test program. While the vehicles are loaded with features that allow them to navigate on their own, an Uber engineer sits in the driver's seat and can seize control if things go awry.

Uber's test program is the latest move in an increasingly heated race between tech companies in Silicon Valley and traditional automakers to perfect fully driverless cars for regular people. Competitors such as Nissan and Google have invested hundreds of millions of dollars and logged millions of miles test-driving autonomous vehicles, but Uber is the first company in the US to make self-driving cars available to the general public. "That pilot really pushes the ball forward for us," said Raffi Krikorian, Director of Uber Advanced Technologies Center (ATC) in Pittsburgh, the company's main facility for testing self-driving vehicles. "We think it can help with congestion, we think it can make transportation cheaper and more accessible for the vast majority of people."

More affordable

Removing the cost of the driver is one way to make rides more affordable. But that prospect didn't sit well with some Uber customers. "It scares me not to have a driver there with an Uber," said Claudia Tyler, a health executive standing near the entrance of an office in downtown Pittsburgh.

A reporter from The Associated Press tried out the service Monday. The ride through downtown Pittsburgh and over some bridges went smoothly, with the car waiting for oncoming traffic before making a turn and at one point stopping for a vehicle that was backing into a parking space. Parking, however, was a

task the human driver had to perform.

Approaches to driverless technology differ. Google, a unit of Alphabet, and Ford Motor Co. want to perfect the fully driverless car - no steering wheel, no pedals - before letting the public climb in for a ride. Others are adding autonomous features in phases, while relying on the driver to take over in certain circumstances.

Many experts predict that it will be years, if not decades, before the public is being driven around in fleets of fully driverless vehicles under any condition. "Because vehicles are driving at seventy miles per hour on the highway, if something goes wrong, things could go wrong very bad, very quickly," said Carnegie Mellon engineering Professor Raj Rajkumar. "This technology needs to be ultra-reliable before we can take the human out of the driving equation."

NuTonomy, a spinoff from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, got the jump on Uber globally three weeks ago when it began picking up passengers in self-driving taxis in Singapore. The company said Tuesday that its six taxis - with backup drivers - haven't had any accidents since the service launched.

The Uber vehicles are equipped with everything from seven traffic-light detecting cameras to a radar system that detects different weather conditions to 20 spinning lasers that generates a continuous, 360 degree 3-D map of the surrounding environment. During the demonstration for reporters two engineers were seated in front - the backup driver and another monitoring the car's 3D map and scribbling notes on how to improve the car's software. The engineers must undergo a week of safety orientation or more to drive the cars, with additional training as the vehicles continue to be refined.

Pittsburgh is a particularly good place to experiment, they said, because the city is a research hub for self-driving

cars and has notoriously bad driving conditions, including snowstorms, rolling hills and a tangled network of aging roads and bridges. Uber executives are watching to see how the cars handle these challenges before saying when fully driverless vehicles will be ready to hit the roads. "We actually think of Pittsburgh as the double black diamond of driving," Krikorian said. "If we can really tackle Pittsburgh, that we have a better chance of tackling most other cities around the world."

Bill Peduto, the mayor of Pittsburgh, lobbied the Pennsylvania state government to allow ride sharing in the city. "Lots of people think steel built Pittsburgh. It was innovation," Peduto said. "Regulations rarely if ever come before innovation, and if you try to put regulations first, all you do is guarantee innovation will occur somewhere else."

Uber officials hope the initial trial will teach them how to ease public fears of adopting the leading-edge technology. "The Pittsburgh pilot is our opportunity for real world testing, so that we can learn more about what makes riders feel safe and comfortable," said Uber product manager Emily Bartel.

Uber's Silicon Valley roots means it tends to pivot quickly and plan, experiment, and adjust direction within weeks, in contrast to longtime carmakers like General Motors or Toyota who have years-long timelines when bringing out new features, Rajkumar and Uber officials said. When the drivers are removed from front seats, the cars will likely be restricted to driving in specific locations under good conditions at first.

"I'd probably give them a little bit and let them work their kinks out," Patrick Holland, a Philadelphia-area student, said right before getting into a human-driven Uber. "But I think a product that's well tested and it's proven to work and safe - I think that's where we're heading, and I think I'll eventually find myself in a driverless vehicle." —AP



CANONSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA: In this April 8, 2008 file photo, Heather Bresch, chief operating officer of Mylan Pharmaceuticals, sits in her office. —AP

MYLAN CEO TO TESTIFY IN HEARING ON EPIPEN PRICE INCREASES

WASHINGTON: The head of the pharmaceutical company Mylan will face lawmakers' questions at a hearing next week on steep price increases for its life-saving EpiPen injector device.

Mylan CEO Heather Bresch and an official from the Food and Drug Administration will testify before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. The committee's leaders said in a statement that there is "justified outrage" from families and schools struggling to pay for the emergency allergy shots. The price has grown to \$608 for a two-pack, an increase of more than 500 percent since 2007.

The chairman, GOP Rep. Jason Chaffetz of Utah, and the top Democrat, Rep. Elijah Cummings of Maryland, said they also will examine ways to encourage greater competition in the EpiPen market.

Several other committees are looking into the matter. The leaders of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs' investigations subcommittee said last week they have begun an inquiry into the company's pricing and competition practices. The Senate Aging Committee has requested briefings on the issue. The chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee has written several letters to Mylan demanding answers. Mylan's Bresch is the daughter of Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va. —AP

EU RENEWS UKRAINE RELATED SANCTIONS

BRUSSELS: The European Union is extending for six months the sanctions targeting people and entities involved in what the EU considers Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea from Ukraine.

The extension, officially announced yesterday, consists of an asset freeze and a ban on EU travel, and affects 146 individuals and 37 entities. The measures, originally introduced in 2014, were last extended in March, the EU said in a statement. The latest action endorsed by representatives from the 28 EU member states means the punitive measures can remain in force through March 15, 2017.

European Union leaders have strongly condemned Russia's annexation of Crimea. The people and entities subject to EU sanctions are deemed to have acted "against Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence." —AP



PITTSBURGH: A group of self driving Uber vehicles position themselves to take journalists on rides during a media preview at Uber's Advanced Technologies Center on Monday, Sept. 12, 2016. —AP



LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY: In this Nov. 20, 2015, file photo, a UPS worker pulls a container full of packages across a floor embedded with casters at Worldport. —AP

UPS TO HIRE 95,000 SEASONAL WORKERS FOR UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

DALLAS: The calendar says it's not even fall yet, but delivery companies and retailers are making their hiring lists for the holiday season. It looks like short-term employment in stores may be flat with last year, but more people will be needed to deliver gifts bought online.

UPS said Wednesday it will add about 95,000 seasonal workers, mostly package handlers and drivers. That's close to last year's pace, when United Parcel Service Inc. hired 93,000 workers for a busy stretch that starts in late November and runs through the gift-return season in early January.

Delivery rival FedEx Corp. has not yet announced its plans. Toys R Us also said Wednesday it has begun taking applications for part-time seasonal jobs in stores and distribution centers. A spokeswoman declined to give a nationwide figure but said the retailer expects to add at least 10,900 workers in five of its biggest markets: New York, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Chicago and Washington, D.C.

Earlier this week, Target Corp. said it would hire more than 70,000 seasonal store workers - about the same as last year. Government figures indicate that about 2.5 million more Americans had jobs in August than a year earlier. John Challenger, CEO of workplace consultant Challenger, Gray & Christmas, said that kind of growth would ordinarily suggest more consumer spending and more seasonal hiring by retailers. "But retailers are continuing to look for ways to be more efficient, and the continuing shift to online (shopping) allows them to be comfortable that they can manage with the same number of employees they had last year," Challenger said in an interview.

Challenger expects overall holiday hiring by retailers to be unchanged from last year, when retailers added about 738,800 seasonal jobs, down 1.4 percent from the year before. The National Retail Federation expects a 3.4 percent increase in total retail sales this year - but a jump of 7 percent to 10 percent in online shopping. While holiday hiring has been flat to down in stores, it is rising for transportation and warehousing services as consumers do more of their shopping online. Target, for example, said it would add 7,500 people in distribution centers.

Peter Harrison, CEO of Snagajob.com, a site on which employers post and applicants browse job listings, said the tight labor market is pushing many employers to lock up seasonal workers earlier each year. And they are often forced to be more flexible with hours and other working conditions because they must compete with outfits like Uber.

Younger workers are more accustomed than their parents were to patching together their income with multiple jobs, temporary gigs, and seasonal jobs. But the latter can also serve as a bridge to a more traditional job.

UPS says that about one-third of seasonal hires eventually land year-round jobs at the company, and its CEO, David Abney, started as a part-time package loader while in college. Toys R Us estimates that 15 percent to 20 percent of its seasonal workers catch on permanently. "It's definitely an opportunity to get your foot in the door and prove yourself," Harrison said. —AP

FRENCH PROTESTERS IN LAST DITCH BID TO UNDO LABOR LAW

14TH PROTEST IN SIX MONTHS

PARIS: Opponents of France's controversial labor reforms took to the streets yesterday for the 14th time in six months in a last-ditch bid to quash the measures that lost the Socialist government crucial support on the left.

Scores of flights in and out of France were cancelled as air traffic controllers went on strike to try to force the government to repeal the changes that became law in July. Demonstrations were planned in towns and cities nationwide, but the movement appeared to be running out of steam.

Trade unions admitted that turnout would likely be lower than at the mass rallies in the spring but vowed to continue opposing the law which makes it easier to hire and fire people and for bosses to negotiate directly with employees on working time. "We will show them that, law or no law, we will always stand against them," Francois Roche, a member of the hardline CGT union demonstrating in Marseille, told AFP.

One of the focal points of yesterday's protests was the eastern city of Belfort where the government is locked in a battle with train-building giant Alstom over the future of a locomotive factory threatened with closure. Belfort's history is intertwined with that of Alstom, which produced its first steam train there in 1880. The plant now assembles high-speed TGV train locomotives.

Last week, Alstom had announced it would close the plant due to a lack of orders and move production to a site 200 kilometers to the north. Hundreds of demonstrators chanting "Alstom is Belfort, Belfort is Alstom" took part in a march from the plant yesterday over

the move. The prospect of up to 400 job losses is a headache for French President Francois Hollande, with parliamentary and presidential elections just eight months away.

Signature Socialist reform

Aviation authorities had advised airlines serving Paris airports to cancel 15 percent of their flights yesterday due to

ment rate of around 10 percent by making nation's notoriously rigid labor laws more flexible. After months of sometimes violent protests, the measures were adopted after being watered down. But such was the opposition on the left, including from within the Socialists' own ranks, the government had to force through the reforms without a vote, caus-



NANTES, LOIRE-ATLANTIQUE, FRANCE: Hooded demonstrators take part in a demonstration against the controversial labour reforms of the French government yesterday. —AFP

the air traffic controllers strike. Irish low-cost airline Ryanair said it had cancelled scores of flights to or through France. Postal and railway workers were also called on to down tools but the disruptions in those areas seemed to be minimal. The new labor law-one of the few major reforms of Hollande's tenure — aims to bring down France's unemploy-

ing a deep divide within the ruling party. Opponents see the measures as weighted in favor of employers and an erosion of workers' hard-won collective bargaining rights. However the protests have fizzled in recent months, falling from hundreds of thousands of demonstrators in March to just 35,000 during the last rallies in early July. — AFP

BUSINESSES DESIGNED TO HELP POOR IN INDIA ATTRACTING OVERSEAS INVESTORS

NOIDA: As a new business in India offering environmentally-friendly rubbish disposal, ScrapApp has boomed in the past year while helping address one of the nation's major problems - garbage. In India, where recycling rubbish is not part of the formal sector, masked workers from social enterprise ScrapApp sift through mounds of rubbish daily at India's largest mall, DLF Mall of India, separating recyclable trash from other waste.

The mall contract is the jewel in the crown for the year-old start-up, one of a growing number of social enterprises in India which are seeking funds to create businesses with a mission to tackle social problems. A Thomson Reuters Foundation poll of nearly 900 experts on the best countries for social entrepreneurs found access to investment was one of the key challenges in the growing sector.

But India was one of the countries where it was easiest to access investment, coming behind Canada, Singapore, the United States, and Belgium. ScrapApp's CEO Vidhur Bakshi, 27, said overseas may be the best place to seek funds to have an impact in India where one-third of the 1.3 billion population live below the poverty line and garbage pollutes streets and rivers and spreads disease. "There are sources of funding within India, but it is not easy, most people want a quick return," said Bakshi, who started ScrapApp in September 2015 with three colleagues. "There are a lot possibilities if we explore sources of finance overseas." The poll, carried out in partnership with Deutsche Bank, the Global Social Entrepreneurship Network (GSEN) and UnLtd, foundations for social entrepreneurs, surveyed social entrepreneurs, academics investors and support agencies in the world's 45 biggest economies as ranked by the

World Bank. The survey found the difficulty in accessing funds was compounded by a lack of public awareness about the work of social entrepreneurs who can run for-profit or non-profit businesses which try to drive social change.

Overseas money

While there are growing sources of capital within India, many entrepreneurs say it is easier to scout for funds in countries with better recognition of social entrepreneurship. The poll, conducted between June 9 and July 15, found none of the experts questioned in India thought the general public understood the sector. Experts say India could play a key role in accelerating development at home and in regions such as Africa where business ideas can be replicated to solve similar social problems. In the last decade, thousands of Indian start-ups have pioneered ideas to help people access services from water and sanitation, education and health to housing and training. With this growth, the challenge of finding capital has eased, say experts, with venture capital funds, angel investors, individuals and corporates all looking to invest in the sector.

Anurag Agrawal, CEO of Intelicap, a successful social enterprise which invests in start-ups, said there are a list of impact focused funds looking for dual return on investments. "If they have a strong commercial case and a solid team behind the business, then there will be no dearth of capital," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. While there are no official figures, Agrawal estimated that investors have poured over \$3 billion into hundreds of social enterprises over the last decade. He, however, added much of the capital for social enterprise comes from outside of India. — Reuters

RIZZO'S 2 HRS HELP CUBS BEAT CARDINALS

ST LOUIS: Anthony Rizzo hit a pair of home runs and Jon Lester pitched eight dominant innings as the Chicago Cubs beat the St. Louis Cardinals 7-0 on Wednesday to clinch at least a wild-card playoff berth. The Cubs improved their MLB-best record to 93-52 and their magic number is one to clinch their first National League Central title since 2008. Chicago secured a playoff berth because St. Louis and San Francisco are the only teams that could pass them in the standings, but since those teams open a four-game series on Thursday both teams wouldn't be able to do so. The Cardinals began the day a half-game behind the New York Mets and a full game behind the Giants for one of the two wild-card spots. Lester (17-4) allowed four base runners, none of which got past first. Cubs catcher David Ross threw out two Cardinals trying to steal second and Lester faced just two batters over the minimum. St. Louis starter Carlos Martinez (14-8) gave up four runs and eight hits in six innings.

ORIOLES 1, RED SOX 0

Mark Trumbo hit his major league-leading

scheduled to get an MRI on his sore right hip. Marco Estrada (8-9) allowed four runs and four hits in 5 1/3 innings.

TIGERS 9, TWINS 6

Miguel Cabrera's homer broke a seventh-inning tie as Detroit rallied for a crucial victory. The Tigers trailed 5-2 in the fourth inning, but came from behind to pull one game behind Toronto for the second AL wild card. Ian Kinsler had four hits, falling a homer short of the cycle, and drove in three runs while scoring two. Brian Dozier and Kurt Suzuki homered for the Twins. Shane Greene (5-4) got the win, while Ryan Pressly (6-7) took the loss after surrendering Cabrera's homer. Francisco Rodriguez put up a perfect ninth for his 42nd save.

MARINERS 2, ANGELS 1

Seattle's Japanese starter Hisashi Iwakuma pitched into the seventh inning and earned his 16th win as Seattle completed a three-game sweep over the Los Angeles Angels. Nelson Cruz and Kyle Seager homered to lead the Mariners,

Manaea (5-9) picked up his first career road victory, retiring 13 of the final 14 batters he faced in five scoreless innings. Yordano Ventura (10-11) was pulled after 4 1/3 innings.

DODGERS 2, YANKEES 0

Los Angeles ace Clayton Kershaw pitched five nearly perfect innings before Justin Turner hit an RBI double off Dellin Betances in a two-run ninth. The Dodgers took advantage of errors by second baseman Starlin Castro and Betances (35) to increase their NL West lead to five games over San Francisco. The Yankees completed a 7-3 home stand and remained two games behind Toronto for the second AL wild card. Next up, they begin an 11-game trip - their longest of the season - to Boston, Tampa Bay and Toronto. Kershaw gave up one hit without a walk, pitching through two rain delays in his first career start at Yankee Stadium. Luis Avilan (2-0) pitched 1 1/3 scoreless innings for the win, and Kenley Janson struck out three in the ninth for his 44th save.

in 6 1/3 innings of four-hit ball. Brandon Maurer finished for his 10th save.

ASTROS 8, RANGERS 4

Jose Altuve and Alex Bregman both left with injuries but George Springer and Teoscar Hernandez homered, helping Houston keep its fading playoff hopes alive. Altuve exited after the fourth with right oblique discomfort, and Bregman was pulled in the sixth with right hamstring discomfort. Houston snapped a three-game losing streak and closed within 3 1/2 games of Toronto for the second AL wild card. The Astros got just their fourth win in 19 games against the Rangers this season. Houston's Joe Musgrove (3-4) allowed three runs and five hits with seven strikeouts in 6 1/3 innings. Derek Holland (7-8) allowed five runs and seven hits in 5 1/3 innings.

INDIANS 6, WHITE SOX 1

Josh Tomlin pitched five effective innings in his return to the Indians rotation and Coco Crisp hit a three-run homer in the sixth inning as Cleveland beat Chicago to remain six games ahead of Detroit in the AL Central. Tomlin (12-8) allowed one run and four hits and walked none as he ended a personal five-game losing streak. Crisp, who also doubled, went deep to left with none out in the sixth to chase Carlos Rodon (79), who allowed six runs to match his season high and lost for the first time since July 31.

MARLINS 7, BRAVES 5

Marcell Ozuna hit a three-run homer as Miami rallied to beat Julio Teheran and Atlanta in a testy game. The benches for both teams emptied in the seventh inning after Atlanta reliever Jose Ramirez threw inside to Miami ace Jose Fernandez, who had been knocked to the ground by a pitch from Teheran (5-10) in the fifth. No punches were thrown and Ramirez was ejected. The comeback from a 4-1 deficit helped Fernandez (15-8) stop a five-game road losing streak, the longest of his career.

PHILLIES 6, PIRATES 2

Freddy Galvis continued his home run surge, hitting his 19th of the season to lead Philadelphia. Galvis connected on a two-run shot in the second inning off Steven Brault (0-3) for his 10th homer in the last 32 games. The Phillies got a rare boost on the mound from righty Jake Thompson (2-5). Thompson, who won for the first time since Aug. 12, allowed six hits and two runs over six solid innings. Tommy Joseph hit his 19th homer for the Phillies. Jeanmar Gomez got the final two outs of the ninth for his 37th save.

BREWERS 7, REDS 0

Junior Guerra pitched six shutout innings, Scooter Gennett and Domingo Santana homered and Milwaukee beat Cincinnati to avoid a three-game sweep. Guerra (9-3), in his third start since coming off the disabled list with right elbow inflammation, allowed just one baserunner past second base - Jose Peraza on a one-out triple in the third inning. Tim Lincecum (2-4) was the loser.

DIAMONDBACKS 11, ROCKIES 6

Jean Segura homered twice for the second consecutive game and finished with five hits as the Arizona Diamondbacks completed a three-game sweep of the Colorado Rockies. Segura and Charlie Blackmon of the Rockies each belted a leadoff homer. Chris Owings and Brandon Drury also went deep for the last-place Diamondbacks. Segura, making a run at a 200-hit season, had three singles, scored three times and drove in three runs. He has 182 hits with 17 games to play. The second baseman went 3 for 5 with two homers Tuesday night in Arizona's 11-4 win. Blackmon and Nolan Arenado both had three hits for the Rockies. Blackmon was a double short of the cycle. —AP



ST LOUIS: Chicago Cubs starting pitcher Jon Lester throws during a baseball game against the St. Louis Cardinals, Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2016, at Busch Stadium. —AP

42nd home run, Kevin Gausman outpitched Rick Porcello over eight innings and Baltimore pulled within a game of AL East-leading Boston. Baltimore took two of three in the series to pull a game ahead of slumping Toronto for the top AL wild card. Zach Britton closed for his 43rd save and Baltimore became the first team to beat Porcello at Fenway Park this season. Gausman (8-10) and Porcello (20-4) had nearly identical line scores over eight innings, each striking out six and allowing just four hits, except Porcello allowed Trumbo's leadoff shot in the second inning. Porcello was 13-0 in home starts with one no decision entering the game.

RAYS 8, BLUE JAYS 1

Alex Cobb pitched 6 2/3 innings to win for the first time in almost two years and Kevin Kiermaier and Corey Dickerson hit two-run homers for Tampa Bay. Cobb (1-0) allowed one run and two hits to win for the first time since Sept. 23, 2014, against Boston. Reigning AL MVP Josh Donaldson sat out his third straight game for Toronto and was

who extended their longest winning streak of the season to eight games. Surging Seattle moved within 1 1/2 games of Toronto for the second AL wild card, with Detroit the only team in between at a game behind the Blue Jays. It's the first time the Mariners (78-68) have won eight in a row since July 2013. They have the longest active streak in the majors. Cruz hit a go-ahead homer in the seventh off Jose Alvarez (1-3), his 37th of the season and fourth in four games. It was the slugger's 10th home run this year against Los Angeles, more than any other Mariners player has hit in one season against a single opponent.

ATHLETICS 8, ROYALS 0

Yonder Alonso and Marcus Semien hit two-run doubles as Oakland beat Kansas City for the third straight game to further ruin the Royals' postseason chances. The 2015 World Series champion Royals are five games out in the AL wild card with 17 games left and would have to climb over five teams. A's rookie left-hander Sean

NATIONALS 1, METS 0

Tanner Roark pitched seven scoreless innings and Wilson Ramos homered in the seventh inning for the game's only run as Washington beat New York. With one out in the seventh, Ramos hit his 21st home run deep over the center-field wall on the first pitch from Fernando Salas (0-1). The Nationals have won five of six. Roark (15-8) allowed three hits with seven strikeouts and four walks, one intentional. Reliever Blake Treinen pitched the eighth and Mark Melancon got the final three outs for his 42 save.

PADRES 3, GIANTS 1

Madison Bumgarner missed a chance at his milestone 100th career win and San Francisco wasted another chance for a potential push in the NL West, losing to San Diego to be swept by the division's second-to-last-place club. On Tuesday night, San Francisco's bullpen blew a three-run lead in the ninth and the Giants failed to gain ground. Bumgarner (14-9) gave up three runs over 6 2/3 innings. Luis Perdomo (8-9) allowed one run



GLASGOW: Britain's Andy Murray, left, walks on the court as Argentina's Juan Martin del Potro walks off during training session at the Emirates Arena. — AP

MURRAY HOPES TO BUILD ON BEST SEASON OF HIS CAREER

GLASGOW: Andy Murray says he is hoping to build on the best year of his career by leading Great Britain past Argentina to their second consecutive Davis Cup final. The Scot spearheaded Team GB's charge to Davis Cup glory last year when their defeat of Belgium in the final saw them claim victory in the competition for the first time in 79 years. The 29-year-old is in the form of his career having already won a second Wimbledon title, a second Olympic gold medal and reached the final of the Australian and French Opens this season.

Captain Leon Smith's team go into this weekend's semi-final clash against Argentina at Glasgow's Emirates Arena as favourites to progress to the final where they will face either France or Croatia. The best-of-five tie opens with two singles rubbers today, followed by the doubles rubber on Saturday and the reverse singles on Sunday. Murray goes into the tie having suffered the disappointment of being knocked out in the quarter-finals of the US Open by Kei Nishikori in New York last week, but the world number two says he will dig deep for "one more big push" to help his side as they bid to successfully defend their title.

"I took a few days off after New York and came here and I've been practicing since Sunday. I get a little break after I'm finished here so one more big push this weekend," Murray said. "At the end of last year, Davis Cup for all of us was a priority but I don't think at the beginning of the year we expected to win the event. "But as you get closer and closer you want to make the most of the opportunity and we want to do it again this year if possible. It's going to be hard and I want to win all the events I can. "It's been the best year of my career so far and I hope I can keep it going."

Murray is expected to partner big brother Jamie, who clinched

his second Grand Slam of the season with the men's doubles title in New York, in the doubles as he looks set to play three times in three days against Argentina. Smith is still to decide on his second singles player with his squad in such fine form. Kyle Edmund impressed many with a solid run to the fourth round at the US Open, while he stepped up in Murray's absence to claim two singles matches victories in the quarter-final defeat of Serbia in the summer. However, Dan Evans was also in good form in New York as he succumbed to eventual champion Stan Wawrinka following a five-set battle in the third round.

Resurgent

The key rubber of the tie will pit Murray against a resurgent Juan Martin Del Potro just weeks after the Scot defeated his Argentine rival to Olympic gold following an epic battle in Rio. Del Potro hasn't played a singles rubber in the Davis Cup for four years following three wrist operations that almost saw him quit the game. The 27-year-old's ranking is still recovering following two years away from the game and he finds himself ranked below teammates Federico Delbonis and Guido Pella.

Argentina captain Daniel Orsanic has still to decide whether he will face Murray in Friday or Sunday's rubber but Del Potro, who lost out to eventual champion Wawrinka in the quarter-finals of the US Open, said he would be ready "I think I've found my way in the game again," the Argentine said. "I'm feeling good and excited to be here. To be in another semi-final for our country, is amazing. The captain will decide who is going to play against Andy on the first day, but we are all ready." Argentina are looking to win their first Davis Cup having suffered three defeats in the past ten years to Russia in 2006 and to Spain in 2008 and 2011. — AFP

MARSH AND FAULKNER OUT OF S AFRICA TOUR

SYDNEY: Batsman Shaun Marsh and all-rounder James Faulkner have been ruled out of Australia's one-day series in South Africa later this month with injuries, Cricket Australia said yesterday. Marsh has a fractured finger and Faulkner suffered a calf injury in training. The selection panel have called up Usman Khawaja for Marsh, but said Faulkner will not be replaced in the squad.

"Shaun undertook a follow-up X-ray and was reviewed by specialists this week," team physiotherapist David Beakley said. "Unfortunately, due to the fracture being in the joint of the finger we have decided to take a more conservative approach, therefore he will not be available for the South Africa series. "James suffered a low-grade calf strain during a fitness session in Sydney today which we expect to take up to four weeks to recover. Captain Steve Smith, who was rested from the Sri Lanka tour after the second of five ODIs, returns to lead the side in South Africa. The tour comprises six ODIs with the first against Ireland on September 27 followed by five against South Africa beginning on September 30. — AFP

'WORLD STOPS' AS BLACKS FACE BOKS

CHRISTCHURCH: New Zealand and South Africa revisited one of rugby's most notorious incidents yesterday and promised a fierce battle as the All Blacks bid to wrap up the Rugby Championship with two games to spare. The world champions are runaway Rugby Championship leaders and a fourth straight bonus-point win tomorrow-provided Australia beat Argentina in Perth-would be enough to regain the southern hemisphere title. But despite the unbeaten All Blacks' fearsome form, they have history with South Africa and coaches Steve Hansen and Allister Coetzee said recent results would mean little in Christchurch. Hansen recalled the second Test in 1970, when Syd Nomis notoriously lost several teeth when he was felled by All Blacks fullback Fergie McCormick-who was roughed up so much in the third Test that he couldn't start the fourth. "One thing I'll never forget is Fergie McCormick's tackle on Syd Nomis and what happened afterwards," Hansen said. "The reason it sticks out is because, whilst it's not what would happen in today's game, it's the ferociousness of how both teams attack each other and play and then afterwards it's shake hands."

Coetzee described All Black-Springbok Tests as "a big battle the world stops and looks at. "It's going to be a physical battle, it's going to be a battle of attrition and skill sets that will be tested," he said. To underscore their physical approach to the match, the Springboks have stacked their bench with six forwards and only two backs with a clear plan to use their muscle up front to starve the expressive All Black backs. In their three Tests so far the All Blacks have scored 128 points including 18 tries, and conceded just 39 points. South Africa, coming off a loss to Australia, have scored only seven tries, with 71 points for and 72 against.

Boks against the wall

Targeting the forwards "gives us a chance to stay in the game in the second half and even win it", Coetzee said, adding that gaining control up front was paramount. "It will be a battle of the set piece," he said. Hansen has made only one injury-forced change to the All Blacks, with Ardie Savea winning his first Test start following a hamstring injury to Sam Cane. Savea's explosive running has made him one of the stand-out players for Super Rugby champions Wellington Hurricanes, but Hansen warned his priorities are different at Test level.

Despite thrashing Argentina 57-22 last week, the All Blacks were exposed defensively around the ruck and that is to be Savea's focus against South Africa. "He's now got to come out and do the work Sam's been doing, the hard work," Hansen said. "He's going to have to be strong in the tackle, strong over the ball. If he gets the opportunity to carry I think you'll see that's the natural side of his game, but the core roles he's got he's going to have to do really well."

The All Blacks walloped the Wallabies in the first two rounds of the championship, and the Australians then beat South Africa. But Hansen said the sequence of results would fire up the Springboks rather than intimidate them. "They're a very good side and backs against the wall they'll be desperate, they'll be hungry," he said.

"History tells us, regardless of what either nation's been doing prior to a Test match between each other, the game is always tight and tough and both teams have got a heck of a lot of pride." The last time the All Blacks played the Springboks they narrowly won 20-18 in the World Cup semi-final at Twickenham last year. — AFP

IRAQI-AMERICAN POWERLIFTER ENDS PARALYMPICS JOURNEY

RIO DE JANEIRO: It's been quite a couple of weeks for Ahmed Shafik, the lone US powerlifter at the Rio Paralympics. His wife delivered the couple's second son early, shortly before the games began last Wednesday, and Shafik, an Iraqi immigrant, competed in his second - and he says final - Paralympics.

Despite a seventh-place finish in the 80-kilogram weight class on Monday, lifting 172 kilograms, Rio was a satisfying end to a long journey for Shafik. "It was overwhelming for me because everybody was watching me and expecting good results and it's a big weight on my back to be the only lifter from the United States," Shafik said.

Born in Baghdad, Shafik contracted polio as a baby, which weakened his legs. Despite the disability, he can walk normally and do many other activities. Still, he qualified for the Paralympics in powerlifting, the games' single weightlifting discipline, in which competitors lie on a bench and raise hundreds of pounds just with their upper bodies.

Unsatisfactory performances

Shafik was inspired to first start weightlifting when growing up and watching his father, Abdul, compete and set records for the Iraqi national team. Shafik followed in his father's footsteps and qualified for the national team that competed in the 1998 IPC World Championships. But he fled the country after the Iraqi Olympic authorities, led by Saddam Hussein's son, Uday, imprisoned and abused Shafik and his teammates for unsatisfactory performances.

He then went to Jordan before making his way to the United States in 2001, where he was given refugee status. He didn't start powerlifting again until 2007. "I wanted to have fun, that's always my main motivation, I always try and have fun while I'm competing and representing the United States," Shafik said. "And I think these games were much better than London because I got good results this time and it meant a lot for me."

A US Army veteran and mechanical engineer, Shafik is now settled in Tucson, Ariz. His wife was due to deliver their second son during the Paralympics. But the baby arrived early, and Shafik was able to be at the birth. "I've been seeing him every day through video chat and everything's good," he said. After his final lift, the 43-year-old Shafik tugged on his singlet and pointed to the American flag while the mostly Brazilian crowd cheered, as they do for most competitors.

Moments later, Shafik said these games were his last competition, and he would be retiring from powerlifting. But he intends to stay close to the sport and work alongside coaches to help teach the next generation of lifters. "Hopefully by 2020 we get more lifters on the team because one lifter in this Paralympics from the greatest country in the world, in my opinion, isn't enough," he said. But before all that, Shafik is excited to get back home to his newly expanded family and relish all the support he has received over the past couple of days. "It's just overwhelming, hearing from everybody at home and on social media, Facebook, everything else," Shafik said. "(The support) has been overwhelming. They're cheering for me, wishing me good luck and it seriously means a lot to me." —AP



RIO DE JANEIRO: Matt Stutzman, of United States, holds the bow with his foot as he competes in the individual compound open, during the Paralympic Games at the Sambadrome. —AP

ARMLESS ARCHER: THERE IS NOTHING HE CAN'T DO

RIO DE JANEIRO: Matt Stutzman was born with no arms - just stumps at the shoulders - but he says there's almost nothing he can't do. He holds a world record for the most accurate distance shot in archery, which includes able-bodied archers. He drives a car without modifications - right foot on the steering wheel - plays basketball, and can write with both feet, both shoulders, and his mouth. He shaves and feeds himself with his feet, and his house in southeastern Iowa has no modifications of any kind. "I tell my wife Amber there's only one thing I can't do," he said Wednesday. "I can't change dirty diapers."

Stutzman - known widely as the "Armless Archer" - has gone from being a depressed, unemployed stay-at-home father in 2009, to being famous and well-off. He now boasts lucrative sponsorship deals with British Petroleum, Nike and many others. "I now travel full time and work, and my wife is a stay-at-home mom," caring for their sons Carter, Cameron and Alex, he said. "I'm not saying I'm like LeBron- (James) rich, but I'm comfortable enough that I'm OK. It's not stressful anymore." He won a silver medal in the 2012 Paralympics in London, but was knocked out in Rio by one point on Wednesday in the quarterfinals.

"My whole goal for the games was to

inspire people," Stutzman said. "If I won a medal, that was just a cherry on top. I feel like I'm doing a pretty good job of inspiring people. It just didn't work in my favor this time as far as winning a medal." Stutzman turned to archery in 2009 to feed his family, not to compete. The idea was to "harvest an animal and put it in the freezer to have food." "One day I had a brilliant idea to grab a bow, and I felt like I could put food on the table. It worked out pretty good," he said. "When you are desperate to provide for your family, you're willing to try whatever."

Keen sense of humor

Along with plenty of determination, Stutzman also has a keen sense of humor. He likes to recount awkward moments about shaking hands - with a man who has no arms. At the Pan American Games a year ago in Toronto, the medal presenter reached to grab Stutzman's shoulder to congratulate him. Stutzman often greets people this way. As he did, Stutzman, instead, offered his foot. "So I went like this," Stutzman said, motioning to his leg and foot to demonstrate. "He didn't know what to do." Or the time in 2009 when he searched on Google for tips about archery. "I actually googled: 'How

to teach a guy without arms to shoot a bow.'" Stutzman laughed. "And there was nothing on Google, so I had to sit down and figure it out."

Stutzman was adopted at 13 months by Leon and Jean Stutzman. He said his parents would always let him try things first, never jumping in immediately to help. "I had to learn how to adapt to the world, instead of the world adapting to me," he said, recounting hours when he and his father would toss around an imaginary baseball. "I don't remember when I first began to learn how to eat," he said. "I just remember one day like: 'Wow, I'm using my foot.'"

Stutzman holds the bow with his right foot, extends his leg and braces the blunt end of the arrow against his shoulder. He triggers the shot with jaw and back muscles. He recalled walking into a sporting goods store to buy a bow, and the clerk asked: "How are you going to shoot it?" Stutzman replied: "I don't know. Just give it to me and leave the room." "That's his general attitude. Just find a way, and get out of my way. "If I can take a bow and compete in a sport that people think you have to have hands for, and I can do it well, then what excuse do others have about sitting around, or not getting a job or making their lives better?" —AP

SYRIAN PARALYMPIC REFUGEE DREAMS OF PEACEFUL HOME

RIO DE JANEIRO: Ibrahim Al-Hussein is swimming in the Rio Paralympics as a refugee, but the excitement of the event pales against his real dream - returning one day to a peaceful Syria. In a sense, Al-Hussein, 27, is incredibly lucky. He and Iran's Shahradd Nasajpour have been brought to Rio de Janeiro by the International Paralympic Committee to highlight the plight of refugees. He hasn't won a medal but says just being in Brazil "was the reward, to be here. 2016 was my most beautiful year."

In 2012 Al-Hussein, a swimmer, lost his leg after an explosion. "I was trying to help a friend wounded in an attack and I was injured by another explosion," he says, adding that he prefers "to forget the past." He got out and was treated and eventually made it to Athens where he now works in a cafe and won selection to the refugee team. He'd begun swimming when he was just five along

the banks of the Euphrates river with his father, then took up judo at 12. Already as a teen he had Olympic dreams.

"I never imagined my country would have a war one day," he told AFP. "After the explosion I lost all hope of continuing sport, since one leg had to be amputated and the other was wounded. My only goal was to walk again." In Greece though, he achieved far more. He established a new life and returned to sport, swimming "for four hours every day after work," and also playing the fast and furious game of wheelchair basketball.

Homeland

In April, Al-Hussein was chosen for the token refugee team, which follows a similar gesture made for the first time for the Rio Olympics last month. He calls for sport to be used to halt conflict and pleads "to stop the bloodbath

in Syria." With so many of Syria's athletes having fled the country, he says the European Union, where many of them have sought refuge, "should ease the procedures for athletes to join clubs so that they can keep training."

"There are many war wounded, people who have had amputations, like me. For the Palestinians, Iraqis and Syrians, the Paralympics are a real goal," he said. When the "marvelous experience" of competing in Brazil ends he will return to his life in Athens and, he hopes, prepare for the Tokyo 2020 Games - only this time representing his homeland. "Let's be realistic. My country is lost at this moment. But I hope one day the bloodbath will end," he said. "I don't want to go back to my country in the conditions that I left, on a wheelchair," he said. How would he like to return? "Swimming, crossing the Euphrates of my childhood," he said. —AFP



RIO DE JANEIRO: In this Sunday, Sept 11, 2016, photo, Brazil's Jeferson da Conceicao Goncalves listens during a five-a-side soccer match against Turkey, which Brazil won 2-0, at the Paralympic Games. — AP

PARALYMPIC PELE: BRAZIL HAILS BLIND SOCCER STAR

RIO DE JANEIRO: Born with glaucoma, Jeferson da Conceicao Goncalves, known as "Jefinho," was completely blind by age 7, three years before he learned to play soccer. He had seen images of Pele but never watched videos of the legendary Brazilian soccer player in action. Yet Jefinho, who could win a third consecutive Paralympic gold medal with Brazil's soccer 5 a-side team this week, has been dubbed the "Paralympic Pele" for his success and playing style. "It's an honor for me to be compared to an athlete like Pele," said Jefinho, who, like others interviewed for this story, spoke through a translator.

Edson Arantes do Nascimento, known globally as "Pele", won three World Cup titles and was named the Athlete of the Century in 1999 by the International Olympic Committee. "In the era that Pele played, he played really well," Tiago da Silva, Jefinho's teammate, said, "but if he puts the blindfold on, he's not going to play well." In soccer 5-a-side, each team competes with four blindfolded players and one goalie who is not visually impaired.

The field is smaller than a traditional soccer pitch and walled in so the ball cannot go out of bounds, and there are two 25-minute halves. The ball makes a noise each

time it moves. Coaches give their players verbal commands and clank metal against the goalposts in order to indicate which way their players need to go.

"He's a unique player who has already been considered to be the best player in the world," Fabio Vasconcelos, Brazil's soccer 5-a-side coach, said of Jefinho. "I did not see Pele play, but he was a phenomenal player. I don't know if you can compare both of them, but for me, Jefinho is a phenomenal soccer player." Vasconcelos agreed that Pele wouldn't play as well with a blindfold on. However, Jefinho has faith in his counterpart. "He gave us three World Cup titles. Even with just one leg, Pele would play really well," said Jefinho, 26, who joined Brazil's soccer 5-a-side team when he was 17.

Globally renowned superstars

He led Brazil to two back-to-back Paralympic gold medals at Beijing 2008 and London 2012. Brazil plays China in the Rio 2016 semifinals Thursday. The bronze- and gold-medal games are Saturday. "He seems like he could actually see the ball and where the players are," Brazilian fan Fabiana da Silva dos Santos said of Jefinho. "He passes the ball just as if he was seeing everything." Of several fans interviewed, only one had witnessed Pele in action: Jorge Germano da Silva, 65. "Pele is something else," Da Silva said. "He played in a different level. You cannot make the comparison." Said Vasconcelos: "They're two big stars-it's great that they were born in Brazil."

Those who are watching Jefinho play this week at Olympic Park noted similarities in his playing style to globally renowned superstars. "From the way that Jefinho controls the ball, we can compare it to the way that Messi does," said Rodrigo da Luz, 19. "He controls it really close to his feet and out-dribbles his opponents." Jefinho is bringing his sport notoriety in Brazil. — AP

DWARFS STANDING TALL AT THE RIO PARALYMPICS

RIO DE JANEIRO: Dwarfs at the Rio Paralympics are getting the big stage they say they deserve. Competitors in the women's 400m swimming this week cited Tyrion Lannister, the dwarf anti-hero of hit TV series "Game of Thrones," as a breakthrough in pushing back against centuries of mockery or ignorance. And in Rio de Janeiro-from the pool to the athletics stadium-they're taking the fight for respect to new levels. "People are starting to realize that we're a lot more capable of, you know, greatness than most people would perceive us to be because of our height," US swimmer Reilly Boyt, 20, told AFP.

Boyt, who has a nose stud and wears tiny star earrings, remembers far fewer dwarfs at the 2012 London Paralympics and "almost nobody" at the World Championships in 2013. "It's awesome," she said of the Rio Games, "because you're competing against people just like you." On the starting blocks, the

diminutive size of the women is startling. Once they dive in, however, the effect of the water and the whirring arms and legs made them appear abruptly different-a lot bigger. "Like giants," Boyt says with satisfaction.

'Game of Thrones' effect

The International Paralympic Committee was unable to provide figures for the number of dwarfs in Rio, but spokesman Craig Spence said that "at each Games we are seeing an increasing number." Dwarfs can compete in six Paralympic sports-athletics, equestrian, powerlifting, swimming, table tennis and wheelchair tennis.

Another US swimmer, Sophia Herzog, 19, said it's been a thrill to compete with "a bunch of dwarfs" in Rio, including Britain's Eleanor Simmonds, who won gold in the 200m medley, adding to her previous haul of four golds from the Beijing and London Games. — AFP

PARALYMPICS MEDALS TABLE

RIODEJANEIRO: Paralympics medals table following Wednesday's events:

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
China	75	58	39	172
GreatBritain	45	24	30	99
Ukraine	31	24	27	82
UnitedStates	26	30	24	80
Australia	11	21	21	53
Brazil	10	24	14	48
Germany	9	14	8	31
Netherlands	8	12	17	37
NewZealand	8	5	4	17
Nigeria	8	2	1	11
Italy	7	9	9	25
Uzbekistan	7	6	17	30
Poland	6	12	8	26
Canada	6	9	5	20
Iran	6	6	4	16
Belarus	6	0	2	8
Tunisia	5	6	3	14
Spain	5	5	7	17
Slovakia	5	2	1	8
SouthKorea	4	8	11	23
France	4	3	9	16
Greece	4	3	4	11
Thailand	4	3	3	10
Mexico	4	1	7	12
Ireland	4	1	2	7
Egypt	3	5	3	11
SouthAfrica	3	3	3	9
Belgium	3	2	0	5
Cuba	3	1	6	10
Malaysia	3	0	0	3
UnitedArabEmirates	2	3	0	5
Turkey	2	1	4	7
Norway	2	1	2	5
India	2	1	1	4
Serbia	2	0	4	6
Kenya	2	0	2	4
Latvia	2	0	1	3
Azerbaijan	1	6	2	9
Algeria	1	5	5	11
Austria	1	3	2	6
Iraq	1	3	0	4
Sweden	1	2	4	7
Colombia	1	1	7	9
Argentina	1	1	2	4
Denmark	1	1	2	4
HongKong	1	1	2	4
Vietnam	1	1	2	4
Croatia	1	1	1	3
Morocco	1	1	1	3
Kazakhstan	1	1	0	2
Lithuania	1	1	0	2
Slovenia	1	1	0	2
Singapore	1	0	1	2
Bahrain	1	0	0	1
Georgia	1	0	0	1
Kuwait	1	0	0	1
TrinidadandTobago	1	0	0	1
Japan	0	7	9	16
Hungary	0	6	5	11
Jordan	0	2	1	3
Switzerland	0	2	0	2
Venezuela	0	1	3	4
Finland	0	1	1	2
Namibia	0	1	1	2
Ethiopia	0	1	0	1
Qatar	0	1	0	1
Czech Republic	0	0	3	3
Israel	0	0	2	2
Mongolia	0	0	2	2
Portugal	0	0	2	2
CapVerde	0	0	1	1
ChineseTaipei	0	0	1	1
Indonesia	0	0	1	1
Pakistan	0	0	1	1
Philippines	0	0	1	1
Romania	0	0	1	1
Saudi Arabia	0	0	1	1
SriLanka	0	0	1	1



MADRID: Real Madrid's Alvaro Morata, center in white, scores 2-1 during a Champions League, Group F soccer match between Real Madrid and Sporting, at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium. — AP

RONALDO, MORATA RESCUE REAL FROM SPORTING UPSET

MADRID: Cristiano Ronaldo and Alvaro Morata struck in the closing minutes to seal a stunning Real Madrid comeback to beat Sporting Lisbon 2-1 to start their Champions League defense on Wednesday. Madrid looked to be heading for their first home defeat in the competition for five years after Bruno Cesar's low effort three minutes into the second-half handed Sporting a thoroughly merited lead. However, in a frantic finale, Ronaldo's free-kick leveled the game in normal time before Morata met James Rodriguez's cross deep into stoppage time to complete a dramatic fightback.

"We started the game a little passively," Ronaldo told BeIN Sports after netting against the side where he started his career. "But football is like this and Real Madrid are like this. The comebacks form part of this legendary stadium." Madrid boss Zinedine Zidane hailed Real's belief despite a sub-par display. "I am happy because we have to suffer, but we never gave up," said the Frenchman. "I don't know if it was a fair result or not, but we believed until the end. You have to play 90 minutes."

The clash pitted two of Europe's most in-form teams against one another with Madrid having won 15 La Liga games on top of claiming their 11th Champions League in May, whilst Sporting are on a 13-game winning streak in Portugal. Yet, it was the visitors who looked by far the more confident as they bossed Madrid for the opening hour, to the delight of the boisterous travelling thousands from Lisbon. The pace of Gelson Martins caused the Madrid defense no end of problems and the diminutive winger had the first effort on goal when his low shot was turned away by Kiko Casilla. Real's star front three of Ronaldo, Gareth Bale and Karim Benzema started together for the first time this season, but all three looked rusty as a long-range effort from Ronaldo turned over by Rui Patrício was the only serious threat to the Sporting goal before half-time.

Jesus disgruntled

Sporting finally got their reward just three minutes into the second-half when Luka Modric and Sergio Ramos failed to clear and the ball fell kindly for Cesar to curl into the far corner. However, Sporting boss Jorge Jesus's joy was short-lived as he was sent to the stands for protesting a dubious yellow card for William Carvalho. "Real Madrid players were talking to the referee and nothing happened to them so I thought it was ok if I did the same thing," said a disgruntled Jesus. "I don't know if we would have lost if I was on the bench until the end of the match."

Instead it was Jesus's opposite number Zidane who turned the game in Madrid's favor with three vital substitutions in the

final quarter. Zidane sacrificed Bale, Benzema and Toni Kroos for Lucas Vazquez, Morata and Rodriguez as Madrid piled on the pressure in the final 20 minutes. Ronaldo looked to have missed his chance to net against his boyhood club when he smashed against the post with eight minutes remaining. However, the three-time World Player of the Year, who was given a rousing reception by the Sporting fans before kick-off, curled home a free-kick that just had too much power for his Portuguese international teammate Patricio. Ronaldo refused to celebrate his goal, but there was no shortage of joy just moments later when Morata met Rodriguez's in-swinging cross with a bullet header to deny Sporting in the cruellest of circumstances. — AFP

MAHREZ LEADS LEICESTER IN CHAMPS LEAGUE BOW

BRUGES: Riyad Mahrez scored in each half as Leicester City enjoyed a dream debut in the Champions League on Wednesday, cruising to a 3-0 win over Club Brugge in Belgium. Voted England's player of the year for his role in Leicester's remarkable Premier League title triumph last season, it was appropriate that the Algerian winger should be so central to their victory in this Group G clash. However, it was Marc Albrighton who opened the scoring inside five minutes at the Jan Breydelstadion before Mahrez whipped in a wonderful free-kick just before the half-hour.

He then converted a 61st-minute penalty to seal a perfect night for Claudio Ranieri's side, who are already top of the section after Porto and FC Copenhagen drew 1-1 in the other game. Much tougher tests surely await for the Foxes, but this was an accomplished, clinical performance in their first European outing since losing to Red Star Belgrade in the

UEFA Cup first round in 2000.

"From our first chance we scored and from that point we had the control of the match and Brugge had the control of the ball," said Ranieri. "We played our style. It was good for us to start our story with a victory." Ranieri handed a debut to Algerian club record signing Islam Slimani and also brought in another summer recruit, Luis Hernandez starting at right-back with Danny Simpson declared unfit. This, though, was largely the Leicester team that won the Premier League against all the odds.

Their new status manifestly failed to impress the locals, with empty seats dotted all around the stadium, but the Foxes will not care about being considered unfashionable in Belgium. Leicester may have had a poor start to their domestic title defense but Club Brugge have also been struggling for form and there was a yawning gulf in class between the sides. — AFP

HIGUAIN FIRES BLANKS AS SEVILLA HOLD JUVE

MILAN: Gonzalo Higuain and Sami Khedira fired blanks as Sevilla held dominant but wasteful Juventus to a scoreless draw in their Champions League opener in Turin on Wednesday. Juventus welcomed the Europa League champions looking to stretch their 17-match unbeaten run at home in Europe with a win that would get the tournament co-favorites off the mark. But despite dominating for long periods, Higuain's second-half header notably coming off Sergio Rico's crossbar, the Serie A champions were left frustrated by Jorge Sampaoli's visitors.

"I'm disappointed we had to settle for a scoreless draw because everyone was expecting us to win three or four-nil," admitted Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri. "We played well throughout and we barely conceded a shot on goal but we have to work hard to improve. "We have five other games in which to secure our passage to the next round, but this game is a reminder that in this competition you have to keep your feet on the ground."

Sampaoli, who replaced current Paris Saint-Germain coach Unai Emery over the summer, had promised attacking football from the Spanish league side. They offered anything but in a game that, ultimately, went in their favor. And former Chile coach Sampaoli admitted they will have to improve if they are to dream of making the last 16. "We have to still improve in certain areas, in our pressing and attack notably. Every game we have to try and do better," he said. "But starting with a point in Turin is good for us."

One-sided encounter

After a one-sided encounter, Juventus were rueing a host of possible scoring chances. In the opening minutes Higuain's mid-field interception allowed Dybala to send Khedira through on goal, but the German skewed his shot wide of Rico's far post. When Dybala produced some magic with a superb mid-air lob to set up Khedira again, the central midfielder fired straight at the onrushing Rico. Sevilla finally fashioned a rare chance but Sergio Escudero's drive following a poor Juve clearance from a free kick was no problem for Gianluigi Buffon, who collected down low.

Despite Bosnian midfielder Miralem Pjanic sitting on the bench after hitting his maiden goal for Juve on his first start last weekend, Allegri resisted the temptation to shake up his midfield at half-time. And initially, he looked to have made the right decision as Juve enjoyed another flurry of chances. Mario Lemina's intelligent ball for Evra saw the France defender bundle past Pablo Sarabia on the left to deliver for Higuain, but the cross came up short.

A deft touch from Dybala with the outside of his boot sent Alves free down the right to leave the Sevilla defense desperately chasing back. Higuain rose to meet the ex-Barcelona winger's cross only to fire his header off the crossbar. Finally, the game looked to be coming to life. Indeed, even Sevilla were entertaining thoughts of scoring a goal. On 66 minutes second-half substitute Joaquin Correa did well to dribble his way past Giorgio Chiellini but his shot across the bows failed to worry Buffon.

At the other end, Rico did brilliantly to get down low and push the ball to safety after Alves's low drive for Dybala a yard from the goalline. Allegri finally buckled, replacing Asamoah with Pjanic and Evra with fellow wing-back Alex Sandro with 22 minutes remaining. Juve continued to dominate, but Higuain spurned another chance when he sent Khedira's cross wide of the upright and five minutes later Pjanic dragged his shot wide of the posts. Higuain, on 80 minutes, fired wide and in the final seconds their frustration continued when Rico pulled off a great save down low to thwart Sandro when the Brazilian sent a diving header towards the near post. — AFP



TURIN: Juventus' Gonzalo Higuain reacts during a Champions League, Group H soccer match between Juventus and Sevilla, at Juventus Stadium. — AP

MONACO SHOCK SPURS IN FRONT OF RECORD CROWD

LONDON: Monaco ruined Tottenham's record-breaking night-out at Wembley as the French side earned a 2-1 win in their Champions League Group E opener on Wednesday. Tottenham are back in the Champions League for the first time in five years and, with the capacity at their White Hart Lane stadium reduced due to redevelopment, they opted to play their European matches at Wembley this season.

Off the pitch, the move was a resounding success as a record home attendance

for an English club of 85,011 packed into Wembley, surpassing the previous high of 84,467 set by Manchester City for an FA Cup tie against Stoke at Maine Road in 1934. The iconic Wembley arch was lit up in Tottenham's blue and white, but that was the extent of the home comforts for Mauricio Pochettino's side as they paid the price for a sloppy first-half display.

Goals from Bernardo Silva and Thomas Lemar put Monaco in command and although Toby Alderweireld got one back, Tottenham were unable to turn their sec-

ond-half dominance into an equalizer. It is not the first time an English team has come unstuck after making Wembley their temporary home as rivals Arsenal also struggled there for two Champions League campaigns in 1998 and 1999.

"They had only two shots on target and scored twice. We feel very disappointed with the result," Pochettino said. "We improved in the second half and had chances to win. We deserved more but you cannot concede like we did." Monaco boss Leonardo Jardim added: "We were

determined to stop Tottenham in their transitions. "They are strong there and doing a good job in that area was important." It might have been different if Tottenham had taken an early chance when Harry Kane whipped over a teasing cross that Monaco defender Andrea Raggi made a hash of clearing. Son Heung-Min pounced on the loose ball and drove his shot under goalkeeper Danijel Subasic, only for Raggi to scramble to his feet and redeem himself with a goal-line clearance. — AFP

TOUCHLINE DRAMA LOOMS FOR KLOPP AND CONTE

LONDON: The touchline action could be as explosive as what happens on the pitch at Stamford Bridge today when Jurgen Klopp takes his Liverpool side to tackle Antonio Conte's Chelsea. Both managers are renowned for the remarkable intensity of their touchline antics and the fourth official is likely to have a job on his hands maintaining order in the two technical areas.

Klopp appreciates the similarities, but it is Conte's achievements with Juventus and Italy, rather than his conduct in front of the dug-outs, that have won him the German's admiration. "I don't know Antonio good enough to know why he is doing it. I know for myself and, as I've said a few times, it just happens to me," Klopp told reporters at Wednesday's pre-game press conference. "He looks quite emotional, even when they don't score. Obviously he is involved in the game, but that's not the most important thing. The very important thing is he is a great manager, something like the 'Pep Guardiola of Juventus' if you want.

"He created their special type of play and had a very successful time there and with the national team. "It is quite impressive what he has done until now, but I don't play against Antonio Conte." After defeat at Burnley and a 1-1 draw at Tottenham Hotspur, Liverpool returned to winning ways at the weekend with a clinical 4-1 thrashing of champions Leicester City at the newly expanded Anfield. Chelsea saw their perfect start to the campaign ended by a 2-2 draw at Swansea City in which they went 1-0 up, fell 2-1 down and then rescued a point through Diego Costa's acrobatic 81st-minute equalizer. The way Chelsea let Swansea back into the match suggested the vulnerability that plagued them last season, when they finished 10th, continues to hover below the surface. But Chelsea winger Victor Moses is convinced that Conte's off-pitch adjustments have set the club on the right path.

Luiz debut No 2

"I think he is the right man for this club," the Nigeria international told the Chelsea website. "He came in and changed quite a few things and everyone was expecting that. The food regime and the training have changed and he wants everyone to gel together as a team. "He speaks to every player and wants the best from each and every one of us, and he will get the best out of us." Last season's corresponding fixture, in late October, saw Klopp pull off the first eye-catching result of his nascent Liverpool tenure as the visitors recorded an impressive 3-1 win.

If the teams' last encounter, in a pre-season friendly in the United States, is anything to go by, today's game beneath the floodlights could be a spicy affair. Chelsea midfielder Cesc Fabregas was sent off for an ugly foul on Ragnar Klavan, while Liverpool's Marko Grujic had to go to hospital following a clash of heads with Bertrand Traore.

It could also be spectacular. The two teams average more shots on goal per game than any other sides in the division, while Liverpool's players have covered more distance than any other team. Croatian centre-back Dejan Lovren is due to return for Liverpool, following a head injury, in place of Lucas Leiva, whose error against Leicester gift-wrapped a goal for Jamie Vardy. But Germany midfielder Emre Can remains absent with an ankle injury. — AFP



MANCHESTER: Manchester City's Argentinian striker Sergio Aguero celebrates scoring their third goal and completing his hattrick during the UEFA Champions League group C football match between Manchester City and Borussia Monchengladbach at the Etihad stadium. — AFP

AGUERO TRIPLE GIVES CITY BELATED LIFT-OFF

MANCHESTER: Sergio Aguero scored a hat-trick as Manchester City outclassed Borussia Moenchengladbach 4-0 in their rearranged Champions League opener at the Etihad Stadium on Wednesday.

The game had been carried over from Tuesday due to a thunderstorm and Aguero made up for lost time with his second treble of the campaign after his hat-trick against Steaua Bucharest in the play-off round.

The Argentina striker, currently serving a domestic ban, struck twice in the first half and once in the second before giving way to Kelechi Iheanacho, who netted City's fourth. City manager Pep Guardiola said the delay had no adverse effect on his players, quipping: "We were at home, sleeping with our wives." "This was the most important game in the season to now," he added. "Considering the opponent, the pressure that we had, we played really, really good."

With his former club Barcelona, as well as Celtic, lying in wait in Group C, Guardiola had warned his players that a strong start in the competition was imperative. City reached the semi-finals for the first time last season, while Guardiola, who has won all

seven of his games at the helm to date, is bidding to win the tournament for a third time. It was a third successive defeat against City for Andre Schubert's Gladbach, who lost twice to the English side in last season's group stage.

"We had to get everything right, be very courageous and attack high up with high intensity," said Schubert. "We didn't manage to do that. We couldn't stop City's build-up and we didn't show quality in defence. That's why Man City won so clearly." After Tuesday's postponement, Gladbach left tongue-in-cheek letters of apology to the bosses of the fans who stayed on in Manchester for an extra day on the seats in the away section. The only change to the two teams announced for Tuesday's game was City's inclusion of Ilkay Gundogan in place of David Silva, who was rested "as a precautionary measure".

Gundogan debut

Having been sidelined by a knee injury since signing from Borussia Dortmund for 20 million pounds (\$26.5 million, 23.5 million euros), it was Gundogan's first outing in a City shirt. City attacked the game in a

manner akin to their slick first-half display in Saturday's 2-1 win at Manchester United and it took them less than nine minutes to go in front. Aleksandar Kolarov fizzed a cross into the box from the left and Aguero darted in front of Andreas Christensen to stab home, ending a five-game Champions League scoring drought.

Visiting goalkeeper Yann Sommer saved sharply from Gundogan after an incisive move involving Fernandinho, Kevin De Bruyne and Aguero, while Fernandinho shot narrowly wide. Gundogan won the penalty that brought City's second goal when he was caught on the back of the leg by Christoph Kramer, although contact may have occurred just outside the box.

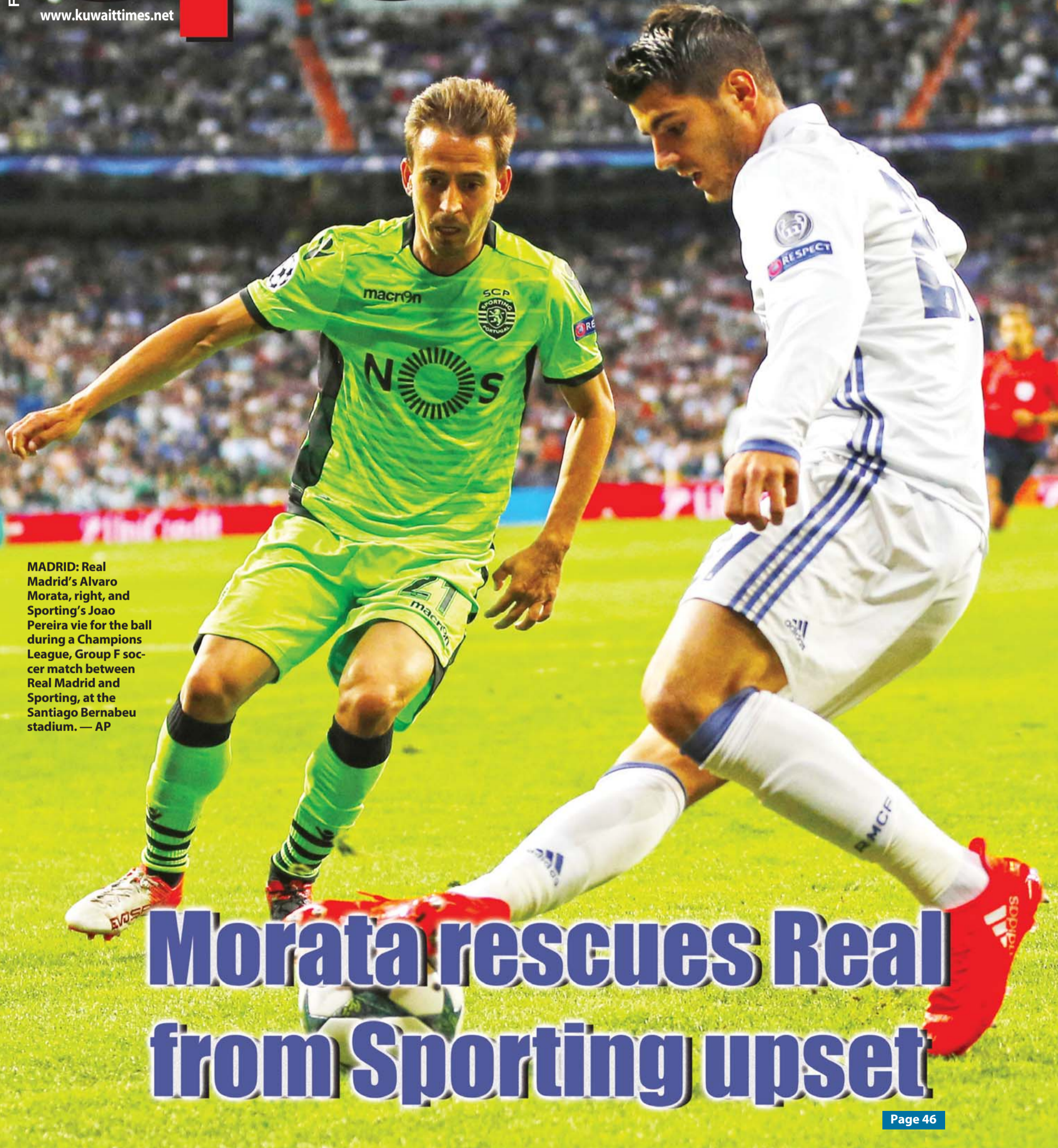
Aguero sent Sommer the wrong way, taking his tally for the campaign to eight goals in all competitions. Sommer also had to beat away a shot from Gundogan, but Gladbach improved after Schubert sacrificed Kramer for Julian Korb and switched from a back three to a back four. A spectator up to that point, City goalkeeper Claudio Bravo got down smartly just before half-time to parry a crisp Lars Stindl effort. — AFP

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MADRID: Real Madrid's Alvaro Morata, right, and Sporting's Joao Pereira vie for the ball during a Champions League, Group F soccer match between Real Madrid and Sporting, at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium. — AP

Morata rescues Real from Sporting upset