

SUBSCRIPTION

Kuwait Times



THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

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Interior Minister reiterates serving Kuwaitis a 'priority'



The many faces of the female faithful at hajj

28



Mourinho rocked as Feyenoord down Man United

48



150 Fils

UNDER-FIRE TRUMP ADMITS OBAMA IS AMERICAN-BORN

MOGUL FALSELY BLAMES CLINTON FOR RUMORS



Min 27°
Max 46°



KUWAIT: Kuwaiti pilgrims are welcomed at Kuwait International Airport yesterday as they arrive home after participating in the hajj pilgrimage. — KUNA (See Page 3)

WASHINGTON: After years of fueling conspiracy theories, Republican White House nominee Donald Trump admitted that President Barack Obama is an American citizen in a much-hyped and nationally televised event yesterday. "President Barack Obama was born in the United States, period," Trump said, as his campaign tried to silence damaging charges of racism. Trump pointedly did not apologize, and repeated false allegations that Hillary Clinton started the so-called "birther" movement questioning Obama's nationality - and therefore legitimacy as president. "Her campaign of 2008 started the birther controversy. I finished it. I finished it. You know what I mean," Trump said.

Since at least 2011, the celebrity businessman has questioned Obama's US citizenship, which is a legal prerequisite for becoming president. The unfounded claims were a launchpad for Trump's political career, propelling him onto the national stage and winning him fans on the far right. But in a tight election race, Trump's position has become a liability, repulsing black, Hispanic and moderate voters who he needs to win the Oval Office.



Donald Trump

After Trump on Thursday again demurred on Obama's nationality, his campaign was forced to issue a statement. "Mr Trump believes that President Obama was born in the United States," his campaign said. Trump's Democratic rival Clinton jumped on that as more evidence Trump is unfit to be president. "For five years, he has led the birther movement to delegitimize our first black president," she said. "His campaign was founded on this outrageous lie. There is no erasing it in history. He's feeding into the worst impulses, the bigotry and bias that lurks in our country," she added. "Barack Obama was born in America, plain and simple. And Donald Trump owes him and the American people an apology."

Trump's brief remarks on the subject came at the end of a lengthy campaign event that plugged his new hotel in the capital Washington, and his support from veterans, but scarcely touched on the "birther" issue. The White House has long viewed Trump's claims as racist, aimed at delegitimizing the president. Asked in the Oval Office about the renewed controversy yesterday, Obama gave the question short shrift and made a veiled dig at the US media and its obsessive coverage of Trump.

"I am shocked that a question like that would come up at a time when we have so many other things to do," he said, before adding "Well I am not that shocked. I was pretty confident about where I was born. My hope would be that the presidential election reflects more serious issues than that."

In 2011, Obama produced his birth certificate - showing he was born at the Kapiolani Medical Center in Hawaii on Aug 4, 1961 - to put an end to the allegations. Shortly after, Obama appeared at the White House Correspondents' Dinner and publicly ridiculed Trump, who was in the audience. "No one is prouder to put this birth certificate matter to rest than The Donald. And that's because he can finally get back to focusing on the issues that matter, like, did we fake the moon landing? What really happened in Roswell? And where are Biggie and Tupac?" — AFP

BOMBER KILLS 23 AT PAK MOSQUE

PESHAWAR: A Taliban suicide bomber killed at least 23 people and wounded dozens more as they attended Friday prayers at a mosque in a northwestern Pakistani tribal area, officials said. The bombing took place in the village of Butmaina in the Mohmand tribal district bordering Afghanistan where the army has been fighting against Taliban militants. "At least 23 people have been killed and 30 others wounded," deputy chief of the Mohmand tribal district administration Naveed Akbar told AFP.

The bomber came in as Friday prayers were in progress and blew himself up in the main hall, he said. The victims include four children, aged 10 or younger, who were killed in the attack, he said, adding that a curfew has been imposed in the area. Another local government official confirmed the information. Shireen Zada, a resident who had prayed at another mosque nearby, said he heard the blast as he was walking home.

"I rushed to the spot and when I went inside the hall there was blood and human remains everywhere and people crying

out," he told AFP. "I brought my pick-up truck, loaded three wounded and drove them to the hospital in Khar," he said, referring to the nearest town. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif condemned the bombing, saying the government would remain steadfast in their fight against extremists. "The cowardly attacks by terrorists cannot shatter the government's resolve to eliminate terrorism from the country," read a statement from Sharif's office.

Taliban faction Jamaat-ul-Ahrar (JuA) claimed responsibility for the attack, saying it was carried out to avenge the deaths of 13 of its members and arrests of others by a local vigilante force in 2009. "Today our suicide bomber has attacked the so-called peace lashkar (vigilante force) in Mohmand agency's Anbar district," the group's spokesman Ehsanullah Ehsan said in an email to reporters. "We warn all the lashkar members of Anbar and supporters of military to quit opposition to Islam and jihad and refrain from enmity with Mujahedin (holy warriors) otherwise our war is being extended," Ehsan said. — AFP

Photo of the day



KUWAIT: Beautiful paintings are on display. Formative art exhibitions characterize Kuwait as capital of Islamic culture. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah is seen during a surprising inspection tour. — KUNA

MOI REITERATES 'PRIORITY' IN SERVING KUWAITIS

KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah reiterated the Ministry's priority in providing top-level services

for the Kuwaiti people. The minister made his remarks while conducting a surprising inspection tour to various check campaigns and locations at Khairan City of Al-Ahmadi Governorate, including Sabah Al-Ahamd Sea City Marina.

The check campaigns are part of the Ministry's security plan with participation of a number of the Ministry's departments such as public security, traffic, rescue, criminal investigation, security media, environment police, and Al-Ahmadi Municipality. The Minister inspected the searching locations and security details during his tour, meeting with security personnel who informed him on current state of searching measures, details' locations, and checking procedures. The minister also met with the General Director of Ahmadi Governorate Security Directorate Brig Abdullah Al-Mulla, senior security leaderships, and discussion highlighted a number of plans that were implemented during Eid Al-Adha holiday.

Also, the Deputy Prime Minister toured Al-Mubarakiyah market yesterday. The Ministry of Interior said in a statement that the minister inspected the popular bazaar to check security measures and get a close look at conditions in the large market. Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled often inspects facilities and key locations in the country. He has recently given orders to the officers and personnel to be ready to cope with the new scholastic year that warrants additional effort to spare the people traffic jam. Al-Mubarakiyah is a popular market, where some of Kuwait's ancient crafts have been preserved and customers find a variety of goods. — Agencies

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Crime

Report

Inhaling gas explosion

KUWAIT: Three young citizens sustained burns after an explosion took place in their vehicle in Hadiya. Security sources said rescue forces found that the explosion took place when one of the young men lit a cigarette while they were all inhaling lighter gas.

Stunt-driving accident

A young citizen was rushed to Adan Hospital's ICU with very serious injuries he sustained when he lost control over his vehicle while stunt-driving in the presence of a large crowd along Wafra highway. Security sources said that the vehicle was shorn to pieces when it overturned and rolled several times.

Beggars arrested

Seven Jordanian female beggars were arrested in Souq Mubarakiya and referred to relevant authorities pending deportation.

'I love him'

"I do not want to press charges because I love him," a Kuwaiti girl told police who released her from a bathroom in a Salmiya apartment, where her boyfriend locked her after beating her. Case papers indicate that a female citizen called police asking for help as she had been locked in a bathroom. After releasing her, detectives found bruises on the girl and she told them that her boyfriend assaulted her before locking her up. "This is your right place," he reportedly told her. However, after receiving medical treatment and after arresting the young man, the girl dropped all charges.

Two assaulted

Two female citizens reported that two young men assaulted them in Salmiya cafe after they rejected their advances, said security sources, noting that one of the girls was injured and that the assaulters fled on foot. A case was filed and a search is on for the suspects.

'Capti-dealer' nabbed

Salmiya detectives arrested a major bedoon drug dealer known as the 'Capti-dealer', said security sources, noting that the suspect was very skillful in evading arrest, but this time he was arrested when a police patrol suspected him while he was intoxicated in front of a Salmiya building. The sources added that the suspect tried to drive away, but he was stopped, and on searching his vehicle, detectives found 700 illicit pills.

Ex-wife smashes luxury vehicles

A citizen reported that his ex-wife smashed his two luxury vehicles' windshields and ruined their paintwork, said security sources, noting that on leaving his Salmiya house to select one of the vehicles to drive, the man as stunned by their condition. The man added that he soon received a message from his ex-wife telling him that he deserves it. A case was filed and the woman is being summoned for further investigations.

Friends fight over soccer

A discussion about a soccer match turned into a fight between two friends in a Jahra diwaniya, said security sources, noting that the two were rushed to hospital where they got medical reports stating their injuries. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress. — Al-Rai and Al-Anbaa



KUWAIT: Kuwaiti pilgrims are welcomed by relatives at the Kuwait Airport. Hundreds of security personnel have been deployed at various locations in and out of Kuwait International Airport to facilitate all procedures for returning pilgrims, Interior Ministry (Mol) announced yesterday. — KUNA Photos

700 SECURITY PERSONNEL TO FACILITATE PILGRIMS RETURN

E-BRACELET PROJECT A BIG SUCCESS

KUWAIT: Around 700 security personnel will be present and stationed at various locations in and out of Kuwait International Airport to facilitate all procedures for returning pilgrims, Interior Ministry (Mol) announced yesterday.



Minister of Justice, Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Yaqoub Al-Sanea

The Ministry's traffic patrols have already intensified their activities at the airport's entrances and the multi-storey parking, organizing traffic around the clock to facilitate the entry and exit of vehicles, the Ministry's Public Relations and Security Information said in a press statement. The ministry has also increased the number of cus-

toms counters to reduce crowd congestion at the arrival terminals, it said, noting that the airport security department has setup special partitions that would lead all returning pilgrims from the airport's hall to the parking areas.

Kuwaiti Hajj Expedition has succeeded in the implementation of the e-bracelet project, Minister of Justice, Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Yaqoub Al-Sanea said yesterday. In a press release, Al-Sanea said "during the holy rituals, I've noticed commitment shown by the Kuwaiti Hajj expeditions in using the e-bracelets, where its main purpose was to track down pilgrims and to ensure their safety by using the GPS." Al-Sanea added that the Kuwaiti Hajj information committee, which was in charge of the project, had conducted several workshops for the Kuwaiti expeditions in Kuwait and in Saudi to explain the nature of the e-bracelet project.

He added that the Kuwaiti Hajj expedition had conducted a visual presentation during a meeting with other GCC Hajj expeditions who



showed their admiration and interest in the project. Some Arab expeditions have requested a detailed explanation on the project. "The huge success of the e-bracelet project will make us continue using it in the coming Hajj's seasons,

and the information committee has many new ideas", Al-Sanea added. Minister Al-Sanea showed gratitude for all working committees in the Kuwaiti Hajj expedition who were behind the expedition's success. — Agencies



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Chess player Amnah Al-Awadi



KUWAITI FEMALE PLAYER OBTAINS HIGH TITLE IN CHESS



Kuwait Mind Sports Association Chairman of the Board of Directors Hassan Ramadan

KUWAIT: Chess player, Amnah Al-Awadi, has obtained the title of a 'Woman Candidate Master' in the 42nd World Chess Olympiad that drew to a close in Baku, Azerbaijan. The Chess Olympiad, organized by the Federation Internationale des Echecs (FIDE), took place from September 1 to 14. Kuwait Mind Sports Association Chairman of the Board of Directors Hassan Ramadan said yesterday that this title was the first international title given to a female Kuwaiti in the game of Chess. "It is a great accomplishment and an indicator to a high level of professionalism in this game," Ramadan pointed out. The World Chess Federation, FIDE (Federation Internationale des Echecs), awards several performance-based titles to chess players including the highly prized Grandmaster title. Woman Candidate Master (WCM) achieved at Elo rating of 2000, is the lowest-ranking title awarded by FIDE. —KUNA

KUWAIT INFLATION 'STEADY'

KUWAIT: Inflation in Kuwait stabilized in July at 141.6 points, with no substantial change from June's level where it grew by only 1.3 percent, according to Kuwait Finance House (Baitak). Baitak, in a report released yesterday, said the US dollar settled in July at 0.301 Kuwaiti dinars, with an annual decline of 0.1 percent compared to the previous month closing. The euro settled also in the end of July, at KD 0.337, rising by 1.5 percent as compared to the July closing of the previous year.

Value of Kuwait-origin exports rose in June, however the exports' value in June was lower than that of May. Kuwaiti exports to Arab countries dropped, due to substantial decrease of the exports to Iraq, Egypt and Jordan, but those to Algeria and Tunisia climbed. Value of the Kuwait-origin exports to States of the globe amounted to KD 13.7 million in June dropping by 33 percent as compared to May 2016.

Meanwhile, the price of Kuwaiti crude oil went down \$1.33 on Thursday to \$39.55 per barrel after it was at \$40.88 pb on the day before, said Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) yesterday. The price of the Brent crude went down yesterday 39 cents to \$46.20 per barrel. The West Texas Intermediate followed suit going down 36 cents to \$43.55 pb. —Agencies



KUWAIT: Liberation Tower overlooks Kuwait City in this photo. The Liberation Tower is the symbol of Kuwaiti liberation, the representation of country's resurgence, second tallest tower in Kuwait, and the fifth tallest telecommunication tower in the world. Officially unveiled by the late Kuwaiti Amir, Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on 10th March 1996, this 372 meter tall tower is 40 meters taller than the Eiffel Tower. —KUNA

MALABAR GOLD & DIAMONDS UNVEILS THE 'GEMSTONE JEWELRY FESTIVAL'

KUWAIT: Malabar Gold & Diamonds' the prominent jewelry retailer across the globe unveils the new Gemstone Jewelry Festival in Kuwait commencing from 15th September, 2016 valid until 8th October, 2016. This festival gives customer a chance to sense the rare precious stones and uncut diamonds in a whole new collection of jewelry making their shopping experience memorable.

This new collection is created in pure gold and studded with Blue Sapphires, Emeralds & Rubies, beautifully complemented with the magnificence of uncut diamonds. This festival also offers to its customers chances to get free 1 gram gold coin on every purchase of 'Era Uncut Diamond jewelry' worth KD 200. Customers can also get a free pearl jewelry with purchase of 'Precia - Precious Gem Jewelry' worth KD 125 and above.

Furthermore, outlets in Kuwait also provide cus-

tomers with offers like zero deduction on old gold (GCC) jewelry exchange and the customers can also enjoy no making charges on 8 gram (22K) gold coins. These offers are valid until 8th October, 2016. Malabar group offers exquisite and beautiful jewelry as a part of various brands presented at Malabar Gold & Diamonds' namely Ethnix- Handcrafted Designer Jewelry, Era- Uncut Diamond Jewelry, Mine-Diamonds Unlimited, Divine- Indian Heritage Jewelry, Precia - Precious Gem Jewelry, Solitaire One - An exclusive solitaire brand, Ago Bay - Pearl jewelry and Starlet - Kids Jewelry.

This season, Malabar Gold & Diamonds' provides customers with the most attractive offers, definitely not worth a miss. Their mesmerizing collection and exclusive offers can be availed in all outlets of Malabar Gold & Diamonds' in the GCC and Far East. Malabar Gold & Diamonds has always been at the

GEMSTONE
JEWELRY
FESTIVAL

MALABAR
GOLD & DIAMONDS

forefront in gold jewelry manufacturing, wholesaling and retailing and plans on being the 'most-preferred' jewelry retailer in the market. The group strives to continue embarking on its journey by further expanding in the near future.

KUWAITIS ARRESTED FOR FRAUD



KUWAIT: Photos show some items including illicit drugs and bottles of liquor seized by police.

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Capital detectives arrested a 28-year-old citizen wanted for a KD 3,112 financial claim. Detectives also arrested a 26-year-old citizen wanted for a KD 9,000 financial claim. Capital detectives also arrested three citizens with hashish and meth. Another 20-year-old citizen, who had been wanted for a six-month prison verdict, was also arrested. In another development, Hawally detectives arrested a citizen with drugs, said security sources, noting that on checking on the suspect, he was found wanted for financial claims. Meanwhile, three citizens (two men and a woman) were arrested while under the influence. Security sources said that on searching their vehicles, detectives found 43 illicit pills and two bottles of liquor. A case was filed.

'Wanted Asians' nabbed

Ahmadi detectives arrested a Yemeni who had been wanted for a one-year prison sentence plus deportation. Also, a 55-year-old Kuwaiti wanted for a KD 25,000 financial claim and theft was also arrested in Ahmadi. Farwaniya detectives arrested a 54-year-old citizen wanted for a KD 3,900 financial claim, in addition to an Asian with 49 homebrewed liquor bottles.



Examining food products

The Municipality's PR department stressed that rejected food products are usually examined at MoH labs, which in turn warn the GCC Early Warning Center if they are found to be hazardous. The department added samples of all imported food products are examined and the shipments are not passed unless the specimens tests are found fit for human consumption. Otherwise, the importer is given the choice of either destroying the shipment or re-exporting it.



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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2016

**South Sudan refugees
soar past million mark**

9

**White US policeman kills
black boy holding BB gun**

11

**Water protests in tech hub
expose India growing pains**

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ALEPPO: A Syrian government soldier and unidentified people walk in the damaged Khan al-Wazir market in the government-held side of Aleppo's historic city center yesterday. — AFP

AIR STRIKES, CLASHES TEST SYRIA TRUCE

RUSSIA READY TO EXTEND CEASEFIRE BY 72 HOURS

ALEPPO: Air strikes and clashes tested a fragile ceasefire in Syria yesterday as civilians waited for aid and the UN Security Council was to discuss whether to endorse the US-Russian truce. The accord has been billed as the "last chance" to end the five-year war but it has been marred by a lack of aid deliveries, sporadic violence and friction between Moscow and Washington. Russia, a key backer of Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad, said it was ready to extend the truce set to expire later yesterday by 72 hours, despite accusing the United States and rebels of not fulfilling the deal.

"We are prepared to extend the cessation of hostilities for a further 72 hours," senior Russian officer Viktor Poznikhir said. UN Security Council members were to meet at 2130 GMT for closed-door consultations, diplomats said, after Russia's envoy to the United Nations said Moscow wanted a UN resolution to endorse the deal. Yesterday, two children were among three civilians killed in air strikes on the rebel-held town of Khan Sheikhun in the northwest province of Idlib, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

Khan Sheikhun, like most of the surrounding province, is controlled by an alliance of rebels,

hardline Islamists and jihadists such as the Fateh al-Sham Front, formerly Al-Qaeda's Syrian affiliate. Under the truce deal, which took effect late Monday, fighting is to halt across the country except where jihadists are present. Experts say the deal will be particularly difficult to implement in areas where Fateh al-Sham has formed strong alliances with local rebels.

'Window of Opportunity'

Yesterday, a barrage of rocket fire and shelling could be heard coming from the rebel-held east Damascus district of Jobar, an AFP correspondent said. Both the Islamist faction Faylaq al-Sham and Fateh al-Sham are thought to be present there. "The Syrian army is blocking an attack by armed groups that tried to enter the capital's east via Jobar... leading to intense clashes and rocket fire," a military source told AFP. State television called the incident a violation of the ceasefire. The United Nations has described the truce as a "critical window of opportunity" to deliver aid to rebel-held eastern districts of Aleppo city, where around 250,000 civilians are under siege.

The UN had hoped that 40 trucks of food -

enough to feed 80,000 people for one month - could be delivered to east Aleppo as soon as possible. But Friday morning, the trucks were still waiting at the border with Turkey, said David Swanson, a spokesman for the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

"The challenge we continue to face - and this is the very sad reality - is ensuring all parties to the conflict, and those with influence over them, are in agreement," he told AFP. Under the truce deal, the main route for humanitarian assistance into divided Aleppo, the Castello Road, would be demilitarised and aid convoys would enter from Turkey. A military source said yesterday Syria's army "has carried out its pledge and handed over a number of points to the Russian monitoring teams", but that rebel groups had not withdrawn from their positions.

'World is Watching'

"As humanitarians this is immensely frustrating. We're here, we're on the ground and we're ready to move... The world is watching," Swanson said. An AFP correspondent said that no movement could be seen yesterday on the rubble-strewn

Castello Road. Russian and Syrian government flags were visible in the distance. The US-Russian deal calls for the truce to be renewed every 48 hours, and for Washington and Moscow to begin unprecedented joint targeting of jihadists if it lasts a week.

Russia said yesterday that only Moscow and the Syrian regime were fulfilling a truce deal. "Although the ceasefire agreement is bilateral, only one side is truly implementing it," defense ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov said in a statement. The United States accused Syria of blocking aid and warned it will not boost military cooperation with Russia unless Damascus honors the truce agreement.

"Right now, the trucks that could bring them life-saving assistance are idling on the wrong side of the border," President Barack Obama's spokesman Josh Earnest said. "And that's the direct responsibility of the Assad regime and their benefactors in Moscow." Obama was due to gather top national security aides later yesterday with the shaky ceasefire set to dominate a meeting ostensibly about countering the Islamic State group. — AFP

SOLDIERS REPLACE TOURISTS IN ALEPPO OLD CITY

ALEPPO, Syria: Instead of colourful, hand-made caps for sale to Syrians and foreign tourists, Zakaria Mosuli - the last tailor in Aleppo's battered Old City - now sews military headwear almost exclusively for soldiers. More than five years of war have turned Aleppo's historic city center, a UNESCO-listed World Heritage site home to an imposing citadel, into a makeshift military barracks. Syrian shoppers and foreign backpackers have been replaced by war-weary troops, and colorful souvenir stands have given way to checkpoints dividing the ancient market into rebel- and government-held zones.

"I am the only tailor left in Aleppo's old city," says Mosuli in his modest shop in a regime-controlled street of the district. He snips carefully from camouflaged military-style fabric at his shop, one of a handful in the souk that are still open. "In the past, I used to sew colorful hats for children and women and young people," he says. "But today, my speciality is making army-style caps, as this whole neighbourhood has become a military zone and Syrian army soldiers are everywhere." Violence broke out in Aleppo in mid-2012, more than a year after anti-government protests first erupted across Syria. The 13-

km ancient market-the largest souk in the world - became a frontline. Its streets are littered with rubble and walls are scarred by years of gunfire, rockets and mortar rounds.

'People Have All Left'

Zakaria says he and his family refused to leave and do not regret their decision. He brings in fabric from a government-held district into Old Aleppo, crossing several checkpoints and dodging shelling and snipers along the way. "I have loyal customers who come from inside Aleppo, but most of my customers these days are soldiers and officers." Pointing to two small birds that swooped into his apartment, Zakaria says: "These are my only friends. The people have all left."

Of the 200 families that once lived in the Old City, just 15 remain. Most shops were shuttered long ago with metal gates painted in the tricolor Syrian government flag. Other storefronts are charred black from car bombs and shelling, and many have had their windows blown in by rocket attacks. When an AFP correspondent visited the market, soldiers were strolling through the ruined streets. A US-Russia truce deal has seen guns fall silent in large parts of Syria,



ALEPPO: Zakaria Mosuli, the last tailor in Aleppo's battered Old City, sews military headwear at his shop in the government-held zones of Aleppo's historic ancient market on Sept 14, 2016. — AFP

including Aleppo. Mohammed Zakaria, a 65-year-old barber in the souk, has been wounded three times by shelling and rocket attacks on the old city. But he says work is good as long as

soldiers are still around. "This area was especially a touristic area. My customers were all tourists or Syrians from other provinces," the hairdresser says. — AFP

ISRAELI FORCES KILL THREE IN JERUSALEM, WEST BANK

ATTACKS SHATTER RELATIVE CALM

JERUSALEM: Three alleged assailants were killed while carrying out attacks on Israelis yesterday, security forces said, shattering weeks of relative calm in Israel and the Palestinian territories. The attacks were a reminder of persistent tensions that continue to alarm the international community and came a day after UN chief Ban Ki-moon warned the two-state solution was "further than ever" from becoming reality.

In the first incident, a man tried to stab police officers in Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem and was killed on the spot. "The terrorist was shot dead by a police officer after he had tried to stab her," a police statement said. Police said the attacker, Saeed Amro, was 28 and held a Jordanian passport, having crossed the border between the two countries on Thursday afternoon. Many Palestinians hold Jordanian passports, and Israeli police said they were checking if Amro also had Palestinian papers. The incident occurred at the Damascus Gate entrance to east Jerusalem's Old City, the main entrance for Palestinians.

Shortly afterwards, two Palestinians rammed a car into a bus stop used by Israelis in the occupied West Bank, causing injuries before troops killed one of the assailants, the army said. "Two assailants rammed a vehicle into a civilian bus stop at the Elias junction near the community of Kiryat Arba," an Israeli military statement said. "Forces at the scene fired at the vehicle resulting in the death of one of the assailants while the other was wounded."

Three young civilians were lightly injured, Israeli medics said. The Palestinian health ministry identified the dead suspect as Firas Khadour. Local sources named the wounded attacker, a woman, as Raghad Khadour. She was taken to hospital in serious condition after being shot in the stomach. Kiryat



HEBRON: An Israeli soldier scuffles with a Palestinian woman trying to film the scene of a reported Palestinian stabbing attack on a soldier near the Jewish settler enclave of Tal Rumeida in the center of this West Bank town yesterday. — AFP

Arba is an Israeli settlement in the southern West Bank close to the flash-point Palestinian city of Hebron. In the third attack, a Palestinian stabbed an Israeli soldier in Hebron and was killed, the army said.

Peres' Dream of Peace

"An assailant arrived at a junction near Hebron armed with a knife and stabbed a soldier," a statement said, adding that he had been shot dead. Following the attack the main roads into and out of Hebron were closed off. A fourth man was killed overnight Thursday, also in Hebron, after allegedly trying to evade arrest by the Israeli military. Yesterday's incidents came shortly after midday Muslim prayers on the first Friday after the weeklong Eid al-Adha holiday, and shattered a relative lull in violence in Israel and the Palestinian ter-

ritories. Previously there had not been an attack in three weeks. Since October, 227 Palestinians, 34 Israelis, two Americans, one Eritrean and a Sudanese have been killed in ongoing violence, according to an AFP count. Israeli forces say most of the Palestinians killed were carrying out knife, gun or car-ramming attacks. Others were shot dead during protests and clashes.

Earlier this week Shimon Peres, the veteran Israeli leader who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1994 along with Yitzhak Rabin and Yasser Arafat for his role in negotiating the Oslo peace accords, suffered a major stroke. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon on Thursday hailed Peres but said his dream of Palestinian and Israeli states living side by side in peace was "further than ever" from becoming reality. Israel has occupied the West Bank since 1967. — AFP

GABON UNDER NET BLACKOUT AS IT AWAITS RULING

LIBREVILLE: An Internet curfew and social media blackout has sparked outrage and wreaked havoc on businesses in oil-rich Gabon, as citizens keenly await a pivotal ruling challenging President Ali Bongo's contested re-election. "We are losing a lot of money," fumed Steeve Ndong, who oversees the website of a mobile telephone company. "The figures of the page I look after are in the red. We are now down to 600 hits a day against between 6,000 and 10,000 normally," he said. "It has lasted for 15 days," added Raoul, a doctor in the seaside capital Libreville, adding "(and) we speak of democracy."

Internet connections were partially restored on Thursday between six in the morning until 8 at night and then cut off later. Social media such as Twitter, Facebook and WhatsApp remain blocked. Gabon, which has been ruled by the Bongo family for nearly 50 years, has been wracked by violent protests after the sitting president was declared the winner of the Aug 27 polls. Bongo's rival Jean Ping, a veteran diplomat, took his challenge of the result - which gave Bongo a winning margin of a mere 6,000 votes - to the country's top court.

Riots broke out following the Aug 31 announcement of the results, the National Assembly was torched and there were attacks on Ping's headquarters. Bongo meanwhile claimed that Ping had instigated the violence. Ping has asked for a recount in the ruling family's stronghold of Haut-Ogooue province, where Bongo won more than 95 percent of votes on a reported turnout of more than 99 percent. Ping says more than 50 people were killed in post-electoral violence, but the interior ministry says the toll was three dead. Meanwhile, anxious Gabonese awaiting news of the Constitutional Court's decision on Ping's appeal now only have recourse to the country's tightly-controlled state media and television. "To know what's really happening we have to wait for the evening news on international TV channels," said a student who identified herself as only Marie.

'We are All Victims'

Another young woman, Laure, said she had "anticipated" the crackdown and installed a virtual private network or VPN on her smartphone to avoid "censorship". "We have access to Facebook," said the 23-year-old Ping supporter. Communications Minister Alain-Claude Bilie-By-Nze told AFP that the erratic services were due to "disruptions" in the network and nothing more. "We are all victims," he said. "Like everybody else, we too cannot work normally and we hope that the links will be re-established quickly," he said. — AFP

BULGARIA, NEW END OF ROAD ON MIGRANT TRAIL

SOBIA: Until recently, most migrants entering Bulgaria from Turkey wouldn't hang around, seeking to continue their journeys towards western Europe. But now they are finding themselves stranded in the EU's poorest country. The reason is that tighter border controls introduced since July have made it much harder for people to follow the usual route of crossing from Bulgaria into Serbia, and from there further west. And if they do make it to Serbia, then getting into Hungary - which last year erected a fence topped with razor wire - has become tougher still with authorities expelling any migrant caught near the border.

Iraqi Kurd Azhuan Arhwanssara, for instance, says that after laying low "20 to a room" in a Roma ghetto in Sofia, he took his chances this summer and tried to cross into Serbia - but was turned back by Serbian border guards. "We didn't come this far to give up," the 22-year-old musician told AFP at a migrant shelter at Vrazhdebna in the outskirts of the Bulgarian capital. He's not abandoning his dream of making it to "England or Canada".



SOBIA: Syrian refugees wait inside their room in the Vrazhdebna reception center for migrants and asylum seekers on Thursday. — AFP

Ivan Penkov, director of the now overflowing shelter, said that Arhwanssara's story has become more common in recent weeks, and that in August his facility's 320 places "were filled up in less than 10 days". "Since July, several groups of migrants disappeared from our refugee centre,"

Penkov told AFP in a visit this week. "But then they came back, having failed to cross into Serbia." Alan, a 13-year-old Syrian, is another case in point. He broke his leg in a forest while trying to cross into Serbia and was turned back, together with his companions, by Bulgarian border police.

Drowned

And going north from Bulgaria into Romania can be dangerous, since it means crossing the raging Danube river that marks the border between the two countries and where crossing points are rare. Earlier this week a boat capsized on the river. Three migrants drowned and three went missing, some of them children. Police are finding ever more migrants hidden in vehicles on the bridge linking the two countries at Ruse, said local police chief Dimitar Chorbazhiev.

Fewer than 20 percent of the 5,310 places available in Bulgarian reception centres were filled at the end of May. Now they are almost full. "Before, more than 90 percent of those who arrived in Bulgaria left again (for somewhere else). Now they have nowhere to go," said Georgy Voynov, a lawyer with rights group the Helsinki Committee. Estimated at around 10,000, the number of migrants stranded in Bulgaria remain modest compared to the roughly 60,000 stuck in Greece or the almost 130,000 who have crossed the Mediterranean to Italy so far this year. — AFP

FORMER ITALY PRESIDENT, PM CIAMPI DIES

ROME: Former Italian president, prime minister and central bank governor Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, who played a key role in guiding the country into the European single currency, has died, the government said yesterday. He was 95 and had been ill for some time. One of Italy's most respected figures on the international stage, Ciampi helped steer the country through the dark days of corruption scandals in the 1990s and persuaded sceptical EU allies that the economy was fit to join the euro. "One of our fathers has left us. If Italy is (still) a great country then we owe an enormous debt of gratitude to Ciampi," former prime minister Enrico Letta wrote on Twitter.



Carlo Ciampi

Jean-Claude Juncker, the president of the European Commission, wrote: "Today, we have lost a great Italian and a great European." Pope Francis praised Ciampi's "gentlemanly discretion and great sense of duty". While tributes flowed in from across Europe, the head of the anti-EU Northern League party struck a discordant note, denouncing Ciampi for the crucial role he had played in making sure Italy was part of the euro from its birth in 1999. "Politically speaking, Ciampi is one of the traitors of Italy," Matteo Salvini told Sky Italia TV.

"He carries on his conscience the disaster that has befallen 50 million Italians," said Salvini, who regularly rails against the euro, arguing that a loss of monetary independence has brought years of economic misery to Italy. Ciampi spent most of his working life at the Bank of Italy, which he joined in 1946 after the Second World War when he fought with the Italian partisans against Mussolini. During his 14 years as its head, the Bank was freed from political control, winning leeway to set interest rates and exchange rate policy. He often said he expected to retire when he left the central bank but in 1993, with Italy mired in the corruption scandals of "Tangentopoli" (Bribesville), Ciampi was persuaded to become prime minister to stave off crisis. — AFP

SOUTH SUDAN REFUGEES SOAR PAST MILLION MARK

NO END IN SIGHT TO CONFLICT

NAIROBI: The number of refugees from South Sudan has passed the one million mark after a renewed bout of fierce fighting in July sent nearly 200,000 people fleeing the war-scarred nation, the UN said yesterday. The latest United Nations refugee agency figures see the world's youngest nation join the ranks of Syria, Afghanistan and Somalia, where conflict similarly has driven massive numbers fleeing to safety across national borders.

The large majority of South Sudanese refugees registered since it won its independence in 2011 have fled since the outbreak of a particularly brutal civil war in Dec 2013. Tens of thousands of people have died and more than 2.5 million been driven from their homes. Countless villages have been burnt to the ground, almost half the population relies on food assistance to survive, and human rights organizations say government and rebel forces have frequently used rape as a weapon of war.

"The number of South Sudanese refugees sheltering in neighboring countries has this week passed the one million mark," UNHCR said in a statement. Another 1.61 million people are displaced inside the country, it said. "Five years after independence, this is a very sad milestone," spokesman Leo Dobbs told reporters in Geneva.

Neighboring Uganda, which already shelters 375,000 South Sudanese, warned it was running out of resources and asked for support. "The international community ... must act very fast to end this violence," Disaster and Refugees Minister Musa Eweru told AFP. "We have maintained an open door policy ... but the resources we have can-

not cope with the surging numbers." "We appeal to donors to step up funding," he added. Hopes of ending the three-year conflict rose in April when former rebel leader Riek Machar returned to Juba to take up the job of vice-president in a national unity government headed by President Salva Kiir.

No End in Sight

But fierce clashes erupted in Juba on July 8 between Kiir's guards and troops loyal to Machar, who is currently in Khartoum receiving medical treatment. Since then, more than 185,000 people have fled, most of them women and children, according to the UNHCR. "They include survivors of violent attacks, sexual assault, children (who) have been

separated from their parents ... and people in need of urgent medical care," the UN agency said.

On Sept 4, the South Sudanese government first reluctantly agreed to the deployment of a 4,000-strong UN protection force to beef up the UN's peacekeeping mission of 12,000 troops. But then it asked to re-negotiate the size of the force, irritating the international community.

On Thursday the United States threatened to push for an arms embargo against the Juba government should it block the formation of the force. Meanwhile several civil society activists who met with a UN Security Council team last week have fled a government crackdown. — AFP



KOBOKO, Uganda: In this Jan 6 2014 file photo, refugees who fled the recent violence in South Sudan and crossed the border into Uganda arrive and await transportation from a transit center in this town. — AP

FARAGE BOWS OUT AFTER BREXIT 'FAIRYTALE'

BOURNEMOUTH: Nigel Farage yesterday said UKIP had "changed the course of British history" with Brexit as he handed over leadership of the eurosceptic party, which faces an uncertain future without its charismatic figurehead. Plainspoken Farage, one of the key faces in the campaign that secured Britain's shock decision in June to leave the European Union, quit soon after the referendum saying his lifelong ambition had been accomplished.

Diane James, an MEP, was announced as his replacement at the party's annual conference in the seaside resort of Bournemouth where Farage used his farewell speech to hail the "fairytale" Brexit result. "Without us there would have been no referendum, without you and the people's army there would have been no ground campaign," he said, as the crowd of mostly older supporters waved Union Jack flags.

"Together we have changed the course of British history," added Farage, who has campaigned for Britain to leave the EU since the early 1990s and has famously clashed with EU leaders as an MEP in the European Parliament - a role he will retain. "Nigel Farage will go down as one of the most important politicians of his era," Matthew Goodwin, a University of Kent politics professor and expert on the rise of UKIP, said on Twitter. James, the party's home affairs spokeswoman and a former pharmaceutical industry executive, is in comparison little known by the wider



BOURNEMOUTH: Outgoing leader Nigel Farage embraces new leader of the anti-EU UK Independence Party (UKIP) Diane James as she is introduced at the UKIP Autumn Conference on the southern coast of England yesterday. — AFP

British public. A poll by YouGov this month found that just eight percent of respondents knew who she was.

Brexit for Christmas?

The new party leader vowed that UKIP would keep up the pressure on the government to deliver on Brexit. She urged Prime Minister Theresa May to "give

UKIP the best Christmas present we could ever have" and invoke Article 50, the formal procedure for an EU exit, before the end of this year. "Until we get a signature, we're still in, they still tell us what to do," she told party members. Asked about the legacy of Farage, James said she would not be a "Nigel-like, not even Nigel-lite".

Farage co-founded UKIP in 1993, growing it into Britain's third biggest party by the number of votes cast at last year's general election. He too said the party would continue pressuring May to go ahead with Brexit, warning UKIP would sweep up discontented voters from both right and left if the government failed to push ahead with the departure. He said he would remain active in political life - with plans to travel across Europe and the US to meet similar political movements - but would not seek to influence James.

Infighting

Five candidates ran for the party leadership, with James the bookmakers' overwhelming favorite. She takes over a party facing an uncertain future, torn by infighting over its direction after the Brexit vote. "In the aftermath of the vote for Brexit, the party has become seriously divided between separate factions and might also struggle to sustain public support from social conservatives in the new political landscape," Goodwin told AFP. — AFP

MERKEL: EU IN 'CRITICAL SITUATION' AFTER BREXIT

LEADERS SEEK TO THRASH OUT REFORM 'ROADMAP'

BRATISLAVA: German Chancellor Angela Merkel warned yesterday that the EU faces a "critical situation", as European leaders sought to plot the bloc's post-Brexit future at a summit without Britain. The 27 leaders - minus British Prime Minister Theresa May - gathered at Bratislava's towering castle overlooking the River Danube, determined to respond to the challenges of mass migration, security, globalization and a stuttering economy. The aim was to thrash out a "roadmap" of reforms during talks in the Slovak capital's hilltop castle, and a boat trip down the Danube. Merkel said the bloc simply had to improve but her influence as leader of the EU's biggest economy has been undermined by her unpopular decision to open Germany's doors last year to nearly a million refugees. "We are in a critical situation. We have to show

with our actions that we can get better," Merkel said as she arrived at the special summit. French President Francois Hollande, the other half of the EU's "power couple" with Merkel, was equally blunt. "We face either break-up, weakening - or we choose the opposite, together giving Europe a purpose," said Hollande, who has made common cause with Berlin on boosting EU defense cooperation.

'Brutally Honest'

EU President Donald Tusk had warned on the eve of the summit that leaders must "have a sober and brutally honest assessment of the situation". The leaders want to launch a "Bratislava Process" of reforms at this summit, to be further discussed in Malta early next year and then agreed in Rome in March 2017 to mark the 60th anniversary of the founding of

the EU. An EU official said the initial discussions had been "honest, without recriminations" while Tusk had submitted his "roadmap" in the afternoon session.

European Commission head Jean-Claude Juncker had meanwhile submitted his version on Thursday but there were no major differences and it "mirrored" what was being discussed, the official said. Greeted by soldiers in bright blue uniforms and ceremonial plumes, the leaders held a first round of talks in the castle then lunched on a river cruise on a German-flagged boat down the Danube to informally discuss Brexit.

The 27 leaders have insisted there will be no formal Brexit talks until Britain triggers the two-year divorce process and says what it wants. Maltese Premier Joseph Muscat quipped in a tweet: "Bratislava summit was so far a straightforward discussion of options for EU to move ahead. We are all on the same boat, literally." Boosting defence cooperation is a key issue for the leaders who hope it will give them something to rally around after deadly terror attacks in France and Belgium. Juncker earlier this week proposed an EU defense headquarters and a common defense force, both ideas that Britain had previously nixed because they might overlap with NATO.

Cracks Everywhere

But cracks in the union are evident everywhere. The migration crisis is the most divisive issue, with many Eastern European leaders blaming Merkel for opening the continent's doors to refugees from conflict in Syria and elsewhere. Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico, who is hosting the summit, said all wanted unity but a "very honest" exchange of views was needed to make that possible. — AFP



BRATISLAVA: Slovakian Prime Minister Robert Fico (left), German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban (right) alight after taking a boat down the Danube River during an EU summit yesterday. — AP

SWEDISH COURT UPHOLDS ASSANGE ARREST WARRANT

STOCKHOLM: WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange faced another setback in his legal stand-off with Sweden yesterday after an appeals court rejected his request to lift an arrest warrant for him over a 2010 rape accusation. The Stockholm appeals court upheld a district court's ruling to maintain the European arrest warrant, and also rejected Assange's request to hold a hearing over the matter.



Julian Assange

Assange "is still detained in absentia", the court said, adding that it "shares the assessment of the district court that Julian Assange is still suspected on probable cause of rape... and that there is a risk that he will evade legal proceedings or a penalty." Assange's lawyer Per Samuelson told AFP he would appeal against the ruling. The 45-year-old Australian has been holed up in the Ecuadoran embassy in London since June 2012, seeking refuge there after exhausting all his legal options in Britain against extradition to Sweden. Assange has refused to travel to Stockholm for questioning over the rape allegation, which he denies, due to concerns Sweden will extradite him to the United States over WikiLeaks' release of 500,000 secret military files on the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

This is the eighth time the European arrest warrant has been tested in a Swedish court. All of the rulings have gone against Assange. The appeals court said Assange's four-year embassy sequestration "is not a deprivation of liberty and shall not be given any importance in its own right in the assessment of proportionality". Assange's lawyers had urged Sweden to follow the non-binding ruling of a UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, which said his confinement in the embassy amounted to arbitrary detention by Sweden and Britain. The appeals court noted that the length of his embassy stay and "the earlier passivity" of police investigators were "arguments for setting aside the detention". "However, the relatively serious offence of which he is suspected means that there is a strong public interest (in) the investigation being able to continue." "At present, continued detention therefore appears to be both effective and necessary so as to be able to move the investigation forward. — AFP

NO IMMINENT PARDON SEEN FOR SNOWDEN

WASHINGTON: Judging by the resoluteness of US officials' tone, the chances President Barack Obama will pardon Edward Snowden appear very slim, and close to none before November's presidential election. The former National Security Agency contractor, who released thousands of classified documents in 2013 revealing the vast US surveillance put in place after the Sept 11, 2001 attacks, currently lives in Russia.

Three prominent human rights groups - Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and the American Civil Liberties Union - launched a campaign Wednesday to pressure Obama to pardon the fugitive whistleblower. Snowden is also the subject of an Oliver Stone movie that hit screens Friday in the United States. High-profile lawyers and celebrities including the writer Joyce Carol Oates, actors Martin Sheen and Susan Sarandon, and musicians Peter Gabriel and Thurston Moore



ATHENS: National Security Agency leaker Edward Snowden speaks via video link during the Athens Democracy Forum, organized by the New York Times, at the National Library yesterday. — AP

have signed the campaign's petition at pardonsnowden.org, which urges Obama to grant Snowden clemency before leaving office in January. It's not the first campaign organized in

support of the 33-year-old, who is a hero to some and a traitor to others. But it is focusing pressure on Obama with hopes he will feel less constrained at the end of his presidency.

'Very Serious Charges'

Officials gave no sign they were listening this week, however. A Congressional report on Thursday criticized Snowden as a "disgruntled employee", not a "principled whistleblower" protected under law. "Edward Snowden is no hero - he's a traitor who willfully betrayed his colleagues and his country," House Intelligence Committee Chairman Devin Nunes said. Snowden dismissed the report on Twitter. "Bottom line: after 'two years of investigation,' the American people deserve better," he wrote. "This report diminishes the committee."

The White House already rejected a previous petition to pardon Snowden in July after it had attracted more than 160,000 signatures. On Wednesday, White House press secretary Josh Earnest said Snowden would enjoy legal due process at a trial in the United States, where he faces up to 30

years in prison for espionage and theft of state secrets. "His conduct put American lives at risk and it risked American national security," he told reporters. "And that's why the policy of the Obama administration is that Mr Snowden should return to the United States and face the very serious charges that he's facing."

The Constitution gives the president the authority to grant pardons to those convicted of violating federal law, a power Obama has exercised 70 times since early 2009, significantly less than his predecessors. However, he leads in commuting the sentences of prisoners already serving time, many for non-violent drug offenses.

Although the majority of previous presidential pardons have gone to those convicted in court, some have benefited those only under threat of prosecution - including former president Richard Nixon. — AFP

WHITE US POLICEMAN KILLS BLACK BOY HOLDING BB GUN

13-YEAR-OLD SHOT MULTIPLE TIMES

COLUMBUS: A white Ohio policeman responding to reports of an armed robbery fatally shot a black 13-year-old boy after he pulled out what appeared to be a weapon that was later determined to be a BB gun, police said on Thursday. The teen was shot multiple times when he drew what appeared to be a handgun from his waistband during a confrontation with officers in an alley on Wednesday in Columbus, the state capital, police said.

"We consider it a tragedy when something like this happens," Columbus Police Chief Kim Jacobs told a news conference. "This is the last thing any police officer wants." Jacobs identified the officer who shot King as Bryan Mason, a nine-year veteran. Mason was placed on temporary

administrative duty, pending an internal investigation. Police identified the victim as Tyree King, although a family lawyer said the boy's first name was Tyre.

The family said in a statement released by a Columbus law firm that it retained to investigate the shooting that "numerous witness accounts are in direct conflict with the officer's version of events". The family also said reports of King's actions before the shooting were allegations only at this point and called for an independent investigation. "The family is obviously distraught by the murder of Tyre," attorney Chanda L. Brown said in the statement, which described him as a typical 13-year-old boy who was active in football, soccer, hockey and gymnastics. "They are shocked and indi-

cate the actions described by the police are out of his normal character," she said.

More than 150 people, including some of King's family members, gathered for a prayer vigil on Thursday near where he was shot, the Columbus Dispatch reported. "My eyes are still swollen and my head still hurts," King's 13-year-old sister Marshay Caldwell said. "He's really not coming back." King's death comes nearly two years after the fatal shooting of 12-year-old Tamir Rice, who was black, by a white Cleveland, Ohio police officer who was responding to reports of a suspect with a gun in a city park.

An investigation revealed that Rice, who died a day after the shooting, had been seen holding a replica gun that shoots plastic pellets. Rice's death became a rallying point for the Black Lives Matter movement and was one of a number of deaths that led to nationwide demonstrations against the use of excessive and sometimes deadly force against minorities, especially young black men, by police officers. On July 5, police shot dead 37-year-old Alton Sterling in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, while 32-year-old Philando Castile was fatally shot by police in St Paul, Minnesota, a day later.

In King's death, detectives retrieved the weapon from the scene of the shooting and later determined it was a BB gun, which shoots small round pellets, with an attached laser, police said. "It looks like a firearm that could kill you," Jacobs said, as she held up an image of the same type of BB gun. The incident began just before 8 pm EDT on Wednesday when police responded to reports of an armed robbery. The victim told officers that a group of males had demanded money, threatening him with a gun, police said. A short time later officers found three males, including King, matching the descriptions of the suspects, police said. — Reuters



LOS ANGELES: Rodney King's daughter Lora King, 32, and Los Angeles Police Officer Rashad Sharif (left) talk with a group of young people who have had their own run-ins with police at a meeting on Thursday. — AP

KING'S DAUGHTER STANDS WITH LAPD

LOS ANGELES: Rodney King's daughter was just 7 when her father was beaten bloody by officers with the Los Angeles Police Department. She was eating breakfast when it came on the morning news - video footage showing LAPD officers kicking and hitting her unarmed father dozens of times with batons. It gave her nightmares for years. In a striking scene that stood in sharp contrast to the 1991 beating, the now 32-year-old Lora King stood shoulder to shoulder with about a dozen LAPD officers Thursday, hugging many of them. She was there to join them in a talk to young people who have had their own run-ins with police.

Her message: It's more important to build bridges with officers than to stand against them. "That's actually what my dad stood for, so I'm following in his footsteps. He had no hatred in his heart for police," King said ahead of her talk with about 50 young adults with the Los Angeles Conservation Corps, which provides at-risk youth with job training, education and work. King, an administrative assistant at an accounting firm, said she's had her own negative interactions with police. Despite that and her father's beating, she said a whole police department can't be judged by the actions of a few. "It is hard to trust," she said. "But it's not going to get anything resolved by hating."

More than anything, officers need to listen to the community, and the community needs to keep an open mind, she said. Rodney King died at the age of 47 after he accidentally drowned in 2012. His beating was the touchstone for one of the most destructive race riots in the nation's history. The 1992 riots lasted three days and left 55 people dead, more than 2,000 injured and swaths of Los Angeles on fire. — AP



COLUMBUS, Ohio: Columbus Police Chief Kim Jacobs holds up a photo showing the type of BB gun that police say a 13-year-old boy named Tyre King (inset) pulled from his waistband just before he was shot and killed by police investigating an armed robbery report on Thursday. — AP

THOUSANDS PROTEST FOR MEXICO LEADER TO RESIGN

MEXICO CITY: Thousands of people protested in Mexico City on Thursday, demanding that President Enrique Peña Nieto resign over his handling of drug violence, corruption and his meeting with Donald Trump. Demonstrators held a sign reading "Peña Nieto INEPT, RESIGN for the good of Mexico!" and waved blackened flags of Mexico on the eve of the country's Independence Day. They marched across the capital toward the Zocalo square, where the president traditionally stands on a balcony of the National Palace the night before the holiday to replicate the "grito", or shout of independence, made in 1810.

Riot police stood near the Zocalo to block access to protesters, who marched under the rallying cry "resign now." Parents of 43 students missing since Sept 26, 2014 joined the protest, with people angry at the government's failure to solve the case, almost two years after they were abducted by police and allegedly killed by a drug cartel. Some shouted "Peña out!" while one sign read: "We're missing 43. State crime!" "We don't have a reason to shout 'viva Mexico.' ... There are thousands of injustices," said Cristina Bautista, mother of one of the missing

trainee teachers.

Ismael Padilla, a 49-year-old assistant principal at a secondary school who wore a black charro suit, said he was unhappy at Peña Nieto's decision to invite Trump last month. The Republican White House hopeful has angered Mexicans for demanding that the country pay for a border wall and describing migrants as rapists. "We were apparently independent," Padilla said. "After the visit of this person who has discriminated against our brothers ... we are outraged and ashamed that he came here like a head of state, because that was the treatment he was given," he said. "We have very little to celebrate."

Nubia Medina, 64, held a sign stating that "all the inept and corrupt must go." "We are tired that this government has always done things badly," she said. "It has neglected social issues. They live like princes while the people live on minimum wage. There are many who have disappeared or died." Other protests unfolded elsewhere, with hundreds demonstrating peacefully in the western city of Guadalajara. But in the southern city of Oaxaca police used tear gas to repel teachers from a radical union opposed to Peña



MEXICO CITY: Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto and his wife the First Lady Angelica Rivera are seen on the main balcony of the National Palace during ceremonies called 'The Shout' marking the start of celebrations of Independence Day yesterday. — AFP

Nieto's education reform. They responded by throwing rocks and launching fireworks at the officers. One person was injured.

Several scandals

Peña Nieto, who took office in Dec 2012, has seen his approval rating sink to 23 percent in a recent survey by Reforma newspaper. Trump's visit on Aug 31 rocked his administration, with

his finance minister, Luis Videgaray, resigning following reports that he spearheaded the unpopular meeting. But Peña Nieto has been haunted by older scandals, notably the disappearance of the 43 students. Parents of the students voiced outrage on Thursday after Peña Nieto named Tomas Zeron to the National Security Council shortly after he resigned as head of the Criminal Investigation Agency. — AFP

MILLENNIALS LEAD PRIVATE MEDIA OPENING IN COMMUNIST CUBA

OUTLETS SPARK DEBATE ABOUT ROLE OF MEDIA

HAVANA: A handful of independent, Web-based news outlets in Cuba are chipping away at the Communist-run island's half-century state media monopoly, challenging the official version of reality. While low levels of Internet access across the Caribbean island limits the outlets' domestic reach and they are not fully free to speak their mind, they are opening up the range of voices and sparking a debate about the role of the media in the one-party state.

"State media talks about things no one cares about and hides the truth," said Abraham Jimenez, 27, who co-launched the online, long-form magazine "El Estornudo" (The Sneeze) in

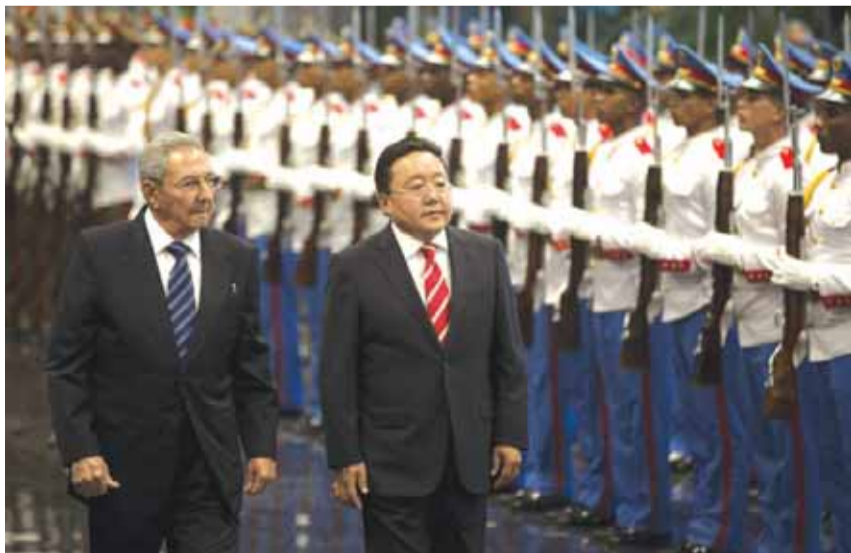
March with a group of friends. "The Sneeze was something of a reaction to this context. We want to tell the truth." While the Cuban constitution forbids privately-owned mass media and there are no independent newspaper printing presses in the country, web-based outlets have so far been tolerated as long as they are not "counter-revolutionary", a nebulous term generally used against those the government accuses of trying to undermine it.

President Raul Castro's government blocks Internet access to dissident media, such as the country's most famous blogger Yoani Sanchez, as well as stridently anti-Castro, Miami-based

outlets. The new outlets, mainly run by millennials, have distanced themselves from dissident groups. Although they are often highly critical of government policy and describe in detail everyday hardships, they are not calling for an end to Cuba's socialist project.

Jimenez says his grandfather worked as a guard for revolutionary icon Ernesto "Che" Guevara. He does not consider himself a dissident and says his criticism is not to achieve political goals, but to present a realistic and balanced view of Cuba. "If you never talk about a country's good things, that's also not journalism," he said. The new openness is emblematic of a wider, albeit cautious, reform program under Raul Castro, who has allowed Cubans to purchase cell-phones and laptops, installed 200 Wi-Fi hotspots across the country and even fostered a small private sector.

For some, the mere fact a debate about the role of the media is taking place is a sea change. "In the Cuba I grew up in, that debate would never have existed," said Hugo Cancio, founder of media platform OnCuba who says he moved to the United States 35 years ago after being expelled from school for making a joke about revolutionary leader Fidel Castro. The new tolerance may not last. The Communist Party newspaper Granma has published a series of increasingly angry attacks calling for restrictions on the new competitors, who have lured away some of its journalists by offering higher salaries and more freedom. The critics link the new media to US government financed outlets such as Miami-based opposition Radio Marti and Television Marti that seek to undermine the Cuban government. — Reuters



HAVANA: Cuba's President Raul Castro (left) escorts Mongolia's President Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj as they inspect the honor guard at Revolution Palace on Thursday. — AP



CARACAS: Venezuelan opposition activists march yesterday, demanding the government to set the date for a recall referendum against President Nicolas Maduro. — AFP

VENEZUELA POSTPONES REFERENDUM ENDGAME

CARACAS: The Venezuelan opposition's push for a vote to remove President Nicolas Maduro ran into a roadblock Thursday when authorities announced a delay in setting the date for the final stage in the process. The leftist president's opponents must collect four million signatures in three days to trigger a referendum - the last step in a bureaucratic obstacle course they are racing to complete by the end of the year. After months of political wrangling and mass street protests, the National Electoral Council (CNE) was supposed to announce yesterday when that three-day period will start. The Council had already postponed the announcement from Wednesday.

However, late Thursday the Council again postponed the decision. It argued in a statement that its workers were threatened by nationwide protests that the opposition has called for yesterday to keep up the pressure. Work would resume on Monday, the council said, without saying if it would then set a definite date. The Council "agreed on the measure after ... calls for protests" at the CNE offices across the country, many of which have been attacked since the recall process began in April, the statement read.

The CNE has already said it is looking at late October for the three-day petition drive. The opposition says that is too late and accuses the authorities of stalling. The center-right coalition behind the referendum drive, the Democratic Unity Roundtable (MUD), is racing to force a vote by January 10, which is the deadline to trigger new elections. — AFP

CHINA RELEASES CANADIAN 'SPY'

MONTREAL: A Canadian man arrested in China two years ago on charges of spying and stealing state secrets has been freed and is back home in Canada, his family said Thursday. Kevin Garratt was detained in 2014 along with his wife, Julia Dawn, who was later released on bail, in the northeastern Chinese city of Dandong, on the border with North Korea. Before their arrests, Garratt and his wife, both Christians, had run a coffee shop in Dandong and were active in helping send humanitarian aid to impoverished North Korea. Garratt was deported from China on Thursday after a court in Dandong ruled on his case on Tuesday, his family said in a statement. "Kevin... has returned to Canada to be with his family and friends," the statement said. "The Garratt family thanks everyone for their thoughts and prayers, and also thanks the many individuals who worked to secure Kevin's release." The family asked for respect of its privacy "in this time of transition", saying it would release more information in the coming weeks.



Kevin Garratt

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau welcomed Garratt home, praising his family's "grace and resilience," especially that of Kevin and his wife. "We are delighted that Kevin Garratt has returned safely to Canada and is with his family once more," Trudeau said in a statement. "The government of Canada has been seized of this case at the highest levels," he added. "We want to thank consular officials who work behind the scenes every day in support of Canadians abroad." The detention had raised tensions between the two countries. The Garratts were arrested a week after Canada accused China of hacking, prompting accusations that Beijing was investigating them in retaliation. — AFP

SENEGALESE WOMEN CHALLENGE BOUNDARIES THROUGH CODING

DAKAR: Youma Fall used to set her school books aside for her younger siblings. Then she realized the books could be put to use in other ways in a country where many students struggle to own even pencils and pens. Nearly a decade later, the 24-year-old is bringing her idea to life through a program in Senegal that encourages young women in coding and technology. She is developing a mobile phone application that will allow teachers, parents and students to swap books and supplies. It's called WECCIO, or "exchange" in the local Wolof language.

"When I finish this, I truly hope that no child has to say they don't understand something because they didn't have a book to study," said Fall, a design engineering graduate. She and a new community of young women in this largely Muslim West African country are pushing cultural and gender boundaries, using coding and entrepreneurial skills to enter a booming mobile technology movement traditionally led by men. Mobile phones are central to online life in Senegal. Nearly 95 percent of Internet connections in the country occur via mobile phones, according to research by the Regulation Authority of Posts and Telecommunications of Senegal. But less than 30 percent of girls in Senegal have chosen to study science and technology fields, such as mathematics, physics or engineering, said Bitilokho Ndiaye, gender adviser at the ministry for posts and telecommunications. Ndiaye has made it



DAKAR: Design engineering graduate Youma Fall shows pictures of baskets, the inspiration for another app she might later pursue to help women sell local products from her PayDunya office on Sept 7, 2016. —AP

her mission to help Senegal enforce its gender-equal policies in technology, and to create career opportunities for young women. "Often, people are tempted to think that the girls are not able to do certain professions. This is due to the sexual division of labor, and its history and culture," she said. Ndiaye helped to create the coding and tech community for young women, called Jiggen Ci TIC, or "Women in Technology" in Wolof, whose partners include UNESCO and telecom provider Sonatel.

There are training opportunities across Senegal throughout the year, including an intensive month-long session that leads to a weekend competition in which teams of girls present mobile apps to address pressing local issues. More than 100 young women participate. The program chooses the three best projects, financing their development. The other girls also receive leadership and entrepreneurial training, with mentoring and support to help complete their projects. — AP

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'HITMAN' CHARGE SPARKS DUTERTE PROBE CALLS

MANILA: The Philippines faced calls yesterday to investigate its firebrand president after a self-confessed hitman alleged Rodrigo Duterte ordered a thousand opponents and suspected criminals murdered when he was a city mayor. Edgar Matobato told a Senate inquiry on Thursday that he and a group of policemen killed some 1,000 people in Davao city on Duterte's orders from 1988-2013, with the politician himself shooting dead one of the victims. "These are serious allegations and we take them seriously, we look into them," said US State Department deputy spokesperson Mark Toner.

The allegations surfaced as the Senate investigated alleged extra-judicial killings in an ongoing anti-drug crackdown that has led to more than 3,000 deaths in Duterte's first 72 days in office. Critics say the alleged killings in Davao, where Duterte was mayor for more than 20 years, established a pattern that has spread nationwide under the new presidency. The testimony of self-confessed hitman Edgar

Matobato sheds light on "the similarity of the strategy adopted by the (Davao Death Squad) and that of the vigilantes that now roam the whole country," Senator Leila de Lima, leading the inquiry, said in a statement.

US-based watchdog Human Rights Watch urged Manila to let United Nations investigators probe the hitman's claims. "President Duterte can't be expected to investigate himself, so it is crucial that the United Nations is called in to lead such an effort," the monitor's Asia director Brad Adams said. Sitting Philippine presidents are immune from criminal prosecution during their single, six-year term. However, the constitution provides for their impeachment and removal from office for "culpable violation of the constitution, treason, bribery, graft and corruption, other high crimes, or betrayal of public trust".

In 2001, president and populist ex-movie star Joseph Estrada was removed from office in a military-backed popular revolt, though an impeachment trial against him on



MANILA: Activists light candles during a candlelight vigil for victims of extrajudicial killings in the drug war of the government in front of a church yesterday. — AFP

graft charges was inconclusive. During his election campaign at the start of the year, Duterte variously admitted and denied involvement in the death

squads. He has so far ignored the latest allegations but Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre branded them as "lies and fabrications". — AFP

WATER PROTESTS IN TECH HUB EXPOSE INDIA GROWING PAINS

BANGALORE SHUT DOWN AFTER VIOLENT PROTESTS

BANGALORE: Oracle employees were at work on Monday when protesters entered their nine-storey building in India's technology hub, Bangalore, and asked them to leave in support of demonstrations that had erupted across the city over a water dispute. By early afternoon, one of the US software giant's biggest overseas offices had been evacuated, two employees there told Reuters, as had the Bangalore premises of dozens of multinationals and Indian firms that stayed shut on Tuesday to ensure staff safety. A spokeswoman for Oracle in India said no one was available to comment on the incident.

Two days of violence, in which protesters torched buses and clashed with riot police after a court ordered Karnataka state to share water from a river with another region, have exposed the growing pains of the dynamic technology hub's chaotic boom. "They come and live here, which means our resources are being used by them. Tomorrow, if there is no water in the city, will they have an office here?" said 30-year-old local activist Keerthi Shankaraghatta, who led a group that staged peaceful calls to shut down several offices during the protests.

Videos posted on his Facebook page show employees from companies including Accenture and ICICI Bank being escorted out of their offices. ICICI declined to comment. Accenture did not respond to a request for comment. Thomson Reuters, the parent company of Reuters News, has more than 4,500 staff in Bangalore. The company said a significant number of its employees in the city had worked remotely on Tuesday, while a small core group worked from its offices.

'I Felt Unsafe'

Bangalore businesses have faced four



BANGALORE: A police personnel canes a motorcyclist during a curfew following violence in the city due to the Cauvery water sharing dispute with neighboring state Tamil Nadu on Sept 13, 2016. — AFP

days of disruption this month after the water protests and an unrelated strike, hitting operations in a city that accounts for a significant chunk of India's \$97 billion in information technology exports. The head of Indian drugmaker Biocon jokingly referred to Bangalore as "Bandhaluru", using the Hindi word "Bandh" for closed. Employees of two large Indian companies told Reuters their buses were stopped and rocked by protesters, who asked them to join the demonstrations.

Cars and trucks registered in the neighboring state of Tamil Nadu were smashed and set on fire. A 22-year-old IT worker, who declined to be identified, said she saw a police van in flames. "For the first time, I felt unsafe in a city I love so much," said Prejin Joe, who runs a tech startup in Bangalore and is originally from another southern state, Kerala. Despite

such experiences, and images of burning buses and trucks broadcast by Indian TV news channels, employers said the spasm of violence, in which two people were killed, had done no major damage to the appeal of the southern city. Several big employers contacted by Reuters said the violence had not changed their view of the city as an attractive place to be based. None was prepared to be quoted. Yet major infrastructure problems like congestion and poor water management, if not adequately addressed, may over time blunt Bangalore's edge over other dynamic commercial centers in India and beyond. From a sleepy retirement center known as "Garden City" in the 1990s, Bangalore, or Bangalore, has grown to become a sprawling metropolis of 10 million that is home to major offices of firms such as Amazon.com, Dell and local giant Wipro. — Reuters

INDIA POLICE ARREST KASHMIRI ACTIVIST

SRINAGAR: Indian police said yesterday they have arrested a prominent Kashmiri activist who was this week prevented from travelling to Geneva, where he had been due to brief UN officials on the strife-torn region. Khurram Pervez was arrested late Thursday after returning to his home in Srinagar, which has been roiled for months by violent protests over the killing of a young militant by Indian soldiers. Police superintendent Faisal Qayoom confirmed his arrest but did not say what the charges were. "We are looking into it. For the moment we've taken him into custody," he said.

Pervez's wife Samina told AFP police had come to the family home late on Thursday to arrest him. He can be held for up to six months without charge under India's Public Safety Act. More than 80 people have been killed in Indian-administered Kashmir since the militant leader's death on July 8, in one of the deadliest bouts of violence since a full-blown armed rebellion was at its peak in the 1990s.

Most have died in clashes between protesters and police and paramilitaries who have fired tear gas and pellet guns at demonstrators. Authorities this week banned prayers to mark the Eid festival at the main mosque in Srinagar, capital of India's only Muslim-majority state. Internet and mobile networks have also been cut off in a bid to prevent a repeat of the protests.

Pervez, coordinator of the Jammu Kashmir Coalition of Civil Society (JKCCS), was scheduled to brief a UN Human Rights Council session on the situation, but immigration officials blocked him from boarding his flight at Delhi's main airport. Both India and neighboring Pakistan lay claim to the whole of the Himalayan territory, which has been divided between the two since they separated seven decades ago. The two countries, which are both now nuclear powers, have twice gone to war over the territory and accuse each other of stoking violence.

Parvez and his organization were the first to report and draw attention to thousands of mass graves in remote parts of Kashmir and to demand that the government investigate them to make clear who the dead were and how they were killed. His organization also has written scathing reports about brutality involving some of the hundreds of thousands of Indian troops in the region and highlighted widespread powers granted to troops which led to a culture of impunity and widespread rights abuses.

Anti-Indian protests continued yesterday as the region remained under strict curfew to prevent widespread demonstrations as people gathered for Friday Muslim prayers. — Agencies

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Trump unveils \$4.4tn tax cuts in new plan

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FRANKFURT: The headquarters buildings of Deutsche Bank in Frankfurt, Germany's biggest lender. Shares in German lender Deutsche Bank plunged in Frankfurt yesterday on news that US authorities were seeking a record \$14 billion fine, opening 8 percent lower.— AFP

DEUTSCHE BANK TO FIGHT \$14BN US SHOCK BILL

BILL COULD RAISE QUESTIONS ABOUT BANK'S FUTURE

FRANKFURT: Deutsche Bank said it would fight a \$14 billion demand from the US Department of Justice to settle claims it missold mortgage-backed securities, a shock bill that raises questions about the future of Germany's largest lender.

The claim against Deutsche, which is likely to trigger several months of talks, far exceeds the bank's expectations that the DoJ would be looking for a figure of only up to 3 billion euros (\$3.4 billion).

The demand adds to the problems facing Deutsche Bank's Chief Executive John Cryan, a Briton who has been in the job for a year. The bank only scraped through European stress tests in July and has warned it may need deeper cost cuts to turn itself around after revenue fell sharply in the second quarter due to challenging markets and low interest rates.

Deutsche Bank shares, which have lost around half their value this year, tumbled 7.6 percent to 12.10 euros in Frankfurt yesterday, with analysts saying the bank may need to raise fresh funds from investors or sell assets to shore up its capital ratios. The cost of insuring Deutsche Bank debt against default rose by around eight percent.

The bank, which employs around 100,000

people, said it regarded the DoJ demand as an opening shot. "Deutsche Bank has no intent to settle these potential civil claims anywhere near the number cited," it said in a statement.

"The negotiations are only just beginning. The bank expects that they will lead to an outcome similar to those of peer banks which have settled at materially lower amounts."

Analysts said that even a hefty reduction in the bill was likely to weigh heavily on Deutsche Bank's finances. "If the final bill is at 5 billion euros or more Deutsche Bank will not be able to avoid a capital hike anymore," said Ingo Frommen, banking analyst at LBBW.

POLITICAL BACKING?

Deutsche Bank's problems are likely to alarm political leaders in Europe's largest economy and the home to the European Central Bank. The German finance ministry said yesterday that the government expected a "fair result" from the negotiations but that the talks were a matter for the bank and the American authorities. Finance minister Wolfgang Schaeuble took the unusual step of voicing public support for the bank earlier this year and a senior opposition figure said he expected the government to step in as a last resort if needed.

"The question would be how much damage would it do to the economy if the bank were to topple," said Green Party financial spokesman Gerhard Schick. The DoJ has taken a tough stance in settlement negotiations with other banks, requesting sums higher than the eventual fine.

A recent European Union ruling that Apple must pay up to 13 billion euros in taxes to the Irish government and the forthcoming US election could complicate Deutsche Bank's efforts to whittle down the demand. One of Deutsche's top 10 investors said he expected the bank to have to pay 4-5.5 billion euros for the mortgages case. "But because of the election campaign it may end up higher - at maybe 6 or 7 billion."

In 2014, the DoJ asked Citigroup to pay \$12 billion to resolve an investigation into the sale of shoddy mortgage-backed securities, sources said. The fine eventually came in at \$7 billion.

In a similar case, rival Goldman Sachs agreed in April to pay \$5.06 billion to settle claims that it misled mortgage bond investors during the financial crisis. Deutsche Bank's settlement will comprise a different list of recipients from the Goldman case, a source close to the matter said,

adding that the lender had already settled some claims three years ago.

In late 2013, Deutsche Bank agreed to pay \$1.9 billion to settle claims that it defrauded US government-controlled Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, America's biggest providers of housing finance, into buying \$14.2 billion in mortgage-backed securities before the 2008 financial crisis.

LIST OF LEGAL PROBLEMS

A \$14 billion fine, or even half that sum, would still rank among one of the largest paid by banks to US authorities in recent years. Deutsche Bank has not said what it has set aside in anticipation of a settlement over the sale and packaging of resident mortgage-backed securities before 2008.

Its overall legal provisions stood at 5.5 billion euros at the end of June, and according to a person close to the bank 2.5-3 billion of that had been reserved for the mortgages case. Deutsche was once one of Europe's most successful players on Wall Street. Like many of its peers, it has since faced a slew of lawsuits that often trace back to the boom years before the crash. Its litigation bill since 2012 has already hit more than 12 billion euros. — Reuters

YEARS OF WAR, REFUGEE FLIGHT HAS WRECKED ME ECONOMIES: IMF

WASHINGTON: Middle East economies have plunged into decline in the years of war since the Arab Spring, creating daunting economic and development challenges, according to an IMF report released yesterday.

Nose-diving growth, soaring fiscal imbalances and decimated labor markets across the region call for newly concerted efforts from donor countries and coordination among humanitarian aid groups and development bodies, said the report, released ahead of a United Nations summit on the refugee crisis.

International Monetary Fund Managing Director Christine Lagarde said that, while the world's attention had been drawn to the humanitarian impact of wars, economic disasters were also unfolding. "Much of the productive capital in conflict zones has been destroyed, personal wealth and income losses are enormous, and

human capital deteriorates with the lack of jobs and education," she wrote in a blog post accompanying the report. The UN General Assembly on Monday is due to hold a high-level summit to coordinate international responses to the refugee and migration crisis.

The IMF report followed Thursday's release of World Bank research which said the burden of large numbers of refugees and displaced persons was largely borne on the shoulders of poor countries, a fact that likewise called for coordination between humanitarian and development aid policies. "To varying degrees, these countries face large numbers of refugees, weak confidence and security and declining social cohesion that undermines the quality of institutions and their ability to undertake much-needed economic reforms," the IMF report said. In a sobering analysis, it laid out the economic costs of war for

countries both plagued by conflict or bordering countries that are.

- After four years of civil war, Syria's GDP has fallen by more than half.
- Yemen's economy contracted by 25-35 percent last year alone.
- Libya saw economic activity fall by 24 percent in 2014.

War damage to Syria's physical capital amounts to \$137.8 billion, or 230 percent of pre-war GDP, the report said, and, with 470,000 killed, 6.6 million displaced and 5 million having fled, the country has lost about 50 percent of its population. The strains on governance, state revenues and state institutions such as central banks are profound: Preliminary data indicate that Yemen, for example, missed its 2015 revenue targets by as much as 60 percent. — AFP



Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks during a campaign rally at Laconia Middle School on Thursday in Laconia, NH. — AP

TRUMP UNVEILS \$4.4TN TAX CUTS IN NEW PLAN

REPUBLICAN HOPEFUL SCALES BACK TAX CUT PROPOSAL

NEW YORK: Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump unveiled a plan on Thursday for \$4.4 trillion in tax cuts, offering less generous tax breaks than his original \$10 trillion plan but proposing to cut the current top rate for the wealthiest taxpayers.

Trump's proposal, which he detailed in a speech in New York, would reduce the top individual rate to 33 percent from the current 39.6 percent. It would raise the standard deduction and cap itemized deductions, which he said would reduce tax loopholes. Trump said his plan would not add to the federal deficit. But his estimate of the \$4.4 trillion cost of the plan uses a mechanism known as "dynamic scoring," which assumes that tax cuts will lead to faster growth, which in turn will allow at least some of the tax breaks to pay for themselves.

Trump also offered a "Penny Plan" for cutting federal spending. He said he would shrink government programs outside of defense by 1 percent each year. But

entitlement programs such as Social Security and Medicare would be shielded from any cuts. The original tax plan laid out by the New York businessman last September was criticized by Democrats and Republicans alike for its costly price tag. Democrat Hillary Clinton, who will face Trump in the Nov. 8 election, denounced it as catering to the very wealthy and ignoring the working class.

Some economists also questioned the assumptions underpinning the plan he outlined on Thursday. In his speech to the Economic Club of New York, Trump predicted his updated package to reduce taxes, curb government regulation and take a tougher stance on negotiating trade agreements would produce annual economic growth of 3.5 percent.

"Everything that is broken today can be fixed, and every failure can be turned into a great success," Trump said. He added the plan would create 25 million jobs over a decade. Trump set 4 percent as a goal for economic growth, in a mes-

sage reminiscent of that of his former Republican rival Jeb Bush.

The US economy last achieved 4 percent growth during the administration of Democratic President Bill Clinton in the 1990s. The economy grew 2.4 percent last year.

'IT DOESN'T SQUARE'

Oren Cass, a fellow at the Manhattan Institute and domestic policy director of Republican Mitt Romney's 2012 presidential bid, said the plan for 1 percent cuts in some programs would not be enough to pay for Trump's proposals. "It doesn't square," Cass said. "The penny plan is an idea that's been out there for a while, but it does touch entitlement spending as well."

Maya MacGuineas, president of the bipartisan Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, welcomed the scaling back of Trump's original tax-cut proposals but said the plan would still leave the country on an unsustainable budget path. — Reuters

OBAMA ENLISTS KASICH TO PRESS FOR TPP PASSAGE

WASHINGTON: US President Barack Obama yesterday engaged Ohio Governor John Kasich, a high-profile political foe, to help press Republicans to approve the 12-nation Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal before he leaves office in four months. Obama was set to discuss strategy for the TPP in the Oval Office with Kasich, who fell short in his bid to be the Republican presidential candidate in the Nov. 8 election, and arranged for him to speak with reporters afterward from the White House briefing room lectern.

The unusual move is a sign of how the White House intends to make a final full-court push to convince Republican leaders in the US Congress to approve the deal in a "lame duck" session after the election, where the TPP has been pilloried by both Republican and Democratic candidates. "I welcome the fact that people will criticize me for putting my country ahead of my party," Kasich told CNN ahead of the meeting. "The two most vociferous opponents of the trade agreement are (Russian President) Vladimir Putin and (Chinese President) Xi (Jinping), one of the most repressive leaders in the history of China," he said. "That in and of itself can tell you why this agreement is so important."

Republicans traditionally have backed free trade deals, but their presidential candidate, Donald Trump, has blamed them for US job losses and threatened to tear them up should he win.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has said the deal would not get a Senate vote this year, and House Speaker Paul Ryan has said he does not see enough votes for it to pass. Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton has also opposed the deal, which is unpopular with labor unions and environmental groups. — Reuters

US CONSUMER PRICES TICKED UP 0.2 PERCENT

WASHINGTON: US consumer prices edged up 0.2 percent in August as a surge in medical care offset flat readings for food and energy. The result follows an unchanged figure in July. Core inflation, which excludes the volatile categories of food and energy, rose 0.3 percent, the Labor Department reported Friday. It was the biggest monthly increase since February. The climb in core inflation was led by a record jump in drug prices and the biggest rise in doctor and hospital charges in a quarter-century.

Over the past 12 months, core inflation is up 2.3 percent but overall inflation has risen a more moderate 1.1 percent, still well below the Federal Reserve's 2 percent target for annual increases in inflation.

The Fed meets next week and is expected to keep its key interest rate unchanged at a near-record low of 0.25 percent to 0.5 percent. The Fed raised rates by a quarter-point last December but since then, officials have held off on further rate hikes, reflecting concerns about sluggish economic growth and periodic turbulence in financial markets.

Economists believe the Fed's next rate hike will not come until December. Steve Murphy, US economist at Capital Economics, said the latest report on consumer inflation is unlikely to alter that view. "Domestic price pressures continue to build, but only very gradually," he wrote in a research note. The rise in core inflation in August was led by a record 0.9 percent rise in drug prices and a 0.9 percent jump in the cost of medical services such as doctor visits and hospital stays. It was the biggest one-month rise in this category since November 1990. — AP

GERMAN ECONOMY MINISTER GABRIEL TO VISIT RUSSIA

BERLIN: German Vice Chancellor and Economic Affairs Minister Sigmar Gabriel will visit Russia next week to hold talks with Russian government officials about the state of bilateral trade relations, his ministry said in a statement yesterday.

Gabriel will be in Russia on Wednesday and Thursday and will take a business delegation with him, the ministry said. Russian officials were working to set up a meeting between President Vladimir Putin and Gabriel, the Kremlin said. Russia is likely to be keen to discuss the impact that European Union sanctions imposed on Moscow over its role in the Ukraine crisis are having and to ask what the prospects are for them being lifted. Germany's Ministry for Economic

Affairs and Energy said Gabriel was making his visit at a time when trade between Russia and Germany was declining because of the state of the Russian economy, which is mired in a grinding crisis, and because of the weakness of the rouble and the knock-on effect that has had on consumer purchasing power.

Trade between German and Russian companies fell by 13.7 percent in the first half of 2016 compared to a year earlier, the ministry said, and German exports to Russia were also down.

"Planned among other meetings are talks with several members of the Russian government on bilateral economic relations between Russia and Germany and the European Union," the ministry said in its

statement. "In addition, a meeting with representatives of German companies that are located in the Russian Federation is planned."

Russian retaliatory counter sanctions banning many EU food products remain in place and Moscow has been keen to highlight the damage it says the row over Ukraine is causing European economies.

German companies have lobbied the German government in the past over the issue, complaining that the EU sanctions on Russia are hurting their business. Chancellor Angela Merkel has said she wants Russia to do more to help the shaky peace process in eastern Ukraine before the EU considers lifting them. — Reuters

GERMAN BANKS COUNT COST OF GLOBAL SHIPPING CRISIS

LONDON/FRANKFURT: German banks are struggling to recoup tens of billions of dollars of loans as a global shipping industry slump hits them hard. The lenders - among the biggest backers of shipowners over the past 20 years - are behind up to a quarter of the world's \$400 billion of outstanding shipping loans, three shipping financiers told Reuters.

This would make them collectively more exposed than banks from any other single country in terms of outstanding debt to the sector. These institutions are now grappling with a near decade-long slump of parts of the shipping sector since the 2008 financial crisis that is also hurting European peers, such as Britain's Royal Bank of Scotland.

"German banks account for close to \$100 billion of shipping debt out of a world total of around \$400 billion," said Dagfinn Lunde, who spent more than a decade as head of shipping at Germany's DVB Bank until the end of 2013. The same estimates of German bank exposure and total sector debt were made by two other shipping finance executives, who declined to be named, citing the confidentiality of their business dealings. Lunde, now a board member of Norway's Maritime and Merchant Bank, said German lenders had been "throwing money" at the sector when shipping business was brisk. "When the values tumbled, they were left with massive exposure to toxic debt." As worsening conditions in the shipping sector leave some shipowners unable to meet payments, it is unlikely that many banks will see a full return on their investments. This could leave them having to sell down their debt at a discount to distressed buyers or to write off some of their loans.

The shipping difficulties come at a time when European banks are already bogged down by a sluggish economy and face tough capital demands from regulators which are eroding profitability.

SHIPPING 'IMPLoding'

Segments of the shipping industry are suffering their deepest downturn ever as international trade slows. Around 90 percent of world trade is transported by sea. South Korean container line Hanjin, which filed for receivership on Aug. 31, is the latest casualty in a crisis exacerbated by a glut of ships, many of which were built before the financial crisis when the global economy was healthier.

"It seems like the shipbuilding and ship finance sectors are ... imploding," Anthony Gurnee, chief executive of ship operator Ardmore Shipping Corp, told an industry conference in London last week. His comments echo remarks made by Stefan Ermisch, the chief executive of shipping finance specialist HSH Nordbank, who recently described the shipping sector as "on the floor". Before the financial crisis, when a dry bulk ship or oil tanker could earn over \$200,000 a day, German banks were among the most prominent financing players. Such vessels now command around \$10,000-\$15,000 a day. Banks' exposure varies widely across German lenders such as Deutsche Bank, Commerzbank and state-backed lender NordLB. Part of the risk stems from exposure to closed investment funds - called KG houses - which bought ships and leased them to big shipping companies.

Commerzbank and Deutsche Bank declined to comment on its shipping finance activities and plans. "For German shipowners, Hanjin is bad news as for them a large company falls away with which they can charter their ships," Oliver Faak, global head ship and aircraft finance at NordLB, told Reuters.

He warned the outlook for the oil tanker market was worsening. "Many shipping companies have ordered tankers that are now being delivered. Supply is rising but the demand hasn't changed." — Reuters



BENTONVILLE: A customer, center, checks out at a Wal-Mart Neighborhood Market store in Bentonville, Arkansas. The Commerce Department released retail sales data for August on Thursday. —AP

OIL PRICE SLUMP DASHES HOPE FOR 'AFRICA RISING'

PRIVATE EQUITY IN AFRICA LOSES ITS SHINE

JOHANNESBURG: Major private equity firms have seen a number of top management departures in Africa, individuals familiar with the matter said, as the funds grapple with investments hurt by a weak economy. US firm Carlyle, Standard Chartered and emerging market-focused Actis have all seen a change of top executives at their Africa funds, according to these six individuals.

Once seen as a beacon of growth, private equity firms expanded their business in the region just before the financial crash. A weak economy and falling currencies have now taken the gloss off a decade of 'Africa rising' optimism.

Some investments by these companies have struggled in the downturn. The changes at these groups, which pool the money of pension funds and international investors to buy, say, a stake in local companies, bring this decline into focus. Carlyle's Africa chief, Marlon Chigwende, confirmed that he had left. His departure in August followed a number of unsuccessful buy-outs, including in Nigeria's struggling

Diamond Bank, two sources familiar with the matter said. Chigwende told Reuters that investments had done well while he was in charge and that he was now setting up his own fund. Carlyle did not comment on the reasons for his departure. The Africa chief for Actis, John van Wyk, is also due to leave, two sources familiar with the matter said, asking to remain anonymous because of the sensitivity of the matter. Van Wyk did not respond to a request for comment. The company's global private equity head Peter Schmid, a veteran of African fund management, said he too would be leaving the group. An Actis spokesman declined to comment.

Standard Chartered is parting ways with its Africa head, Peter Baird, as part of a plan to reduce its Africa team from 11 members to five, two industry sources said. Standard Chartered's private equity head, Joe Stevens, confirmed that the team was being "streamlined" but said it was not linked to performance. A confidential investor prospectus, seen by Reuters, shows that

Chigwende and two fund managers leaving Standard Chartered, Adrian Smith and Mayowa Ayodele, are planning to launch Arkana Partners, a new African private equity firm. Smith and Ayodele declined to comment.

DRY UP

The changes come as a slump in oil has hit Africa hard, pushing countries such as South Africa, Nigeria and Angola into or close to recession and sending their currencies tumbling. This change of fortune is reflected in the private equity sector. African private equity deals fell to \$2.5 billion last year, compared with \$8.1 billion in 2014, and fundraising is expected to drop this year, the African Private Equity and Venture Capital Association said. Many of the hardest hit investments have been in Nigeria, where subdued oil prices have pushed Africa's most populous country and biggest economy into recession. That has seen the supply of dollars dry up and the local Naira currency weaken, cutting the value of foreign investments in the country. — Reuters

OIL HITS TWO-WEEK LOWS ON GROWING GLUT CONCERNS

LONDON: Oil prices fell to roughly two-week lows yesterday as news of rising Iranian exports and returning supplies from Libya and Nigeria fuelled concerns that the global glut will persist. Benchmark Brent crude futures fell below the \$46-a-barrel mark, trading down 1.7 percent at \$45.79 a barrel, down 80 cents, at 1045 GMT. US West Texas Intermediate futures were down 73 cents, or 1.7 percent, at \$43.18 a barrel, a two-week low. Both contracts have fallen 9-10 percent in one week, underlining how volatile the oil market currently is.

"We've seen a lot of bearish news this week: Libya, Nigeria, sceptical monthly reports from the IEA and OPEC and large

stockbuilding in the US, so weak fundamentals are weighing on the market," said Frank Klumpp, oil analyst at Stuttgart-based Landesbank Baden-Wuerttemberg.

Iran is nearing its pre-sanctions crude oil export levels after a source familiar with the country's tanker loading schedules said the third-biggest OPEC producer had raised exports to more than 2 million barrels per day (bpd) in August. Iran's August crude exports, excluding condensate, roughly doubled from a year ago to 2.11 million bpd, the source said, based on data compiled from tanker loading schedules. Much of Iran's fresh output has found a home in Asia and Europe. India's daily oil imports from Iran rose to the highest

in at least 15 years in August, according to trade sources and shipping data.

Austria's OMV said yesterday it had taken delivery of an Iranian crude oil spot delivery in Italy, its first cargo from Iran since 2012. There are also signs of a return of output from Nigeria and Libya, two countries whose crude exports have been hampered by conflict and unrest. Libya has lifted force majeure at some of its main ports and is resuming oil exports, the National Oil Corporation (NOC) said on Thursday. "Exports will resume immediately from Zueitina and Ras Lanuf, and will continue at Brega ... exports will resume from Es Sider as soon as possible," NOC Chairman Mustafa Sanalla said. In Nigeria, ExxonMobil

was making preparations to load a cargo of Qua Iboe crude at the end of September, trading sources said, its first since it imposed force majeure in July. Traders were also eyeing weekly US rig count data, to be released by Baker Hughes yesterday. Last week's data showed US drillers had added seven oil rigs in the week to Sept. 9, bringing the rig count to 414, the most since February. "The focus will turn to drilling activity in the US, with another rise expected to raise concerns about a recovery in US output," Australian bank ANZ said in a note. The United States has witnessed more growth in daily output than any other major producer thanks to the boom in shale oil production. — Reuters



TOKYO: A man walks past an electronic stock indicator of a securities firm indicating Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 that lost 114.80 percent or 0.7 percent to close at 16,614.24 in Tokyo. Although oil prices regained overnight drops, amid the possibility of a weaker global economy and guess work about the US Federal Reserve's plans for interest rates. —AP

BENEFITS OF BOJ'S NEGATIVE RATES 'VERY BIG': ABE'S AIDE

ADVISER HIGHLIGHTS BENEFITS OF NEGATIVE RATES

TOKYO: The benefits of the Bank of Japan's negative interest rate policy are "very big" because it is encouraging corporate debt issuance and lowering mortgage rates, an adviser to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said yesterday. The policy has weighed on bank earnings in the short term, but it should be a benefit in the long term because negative rates can lead to more capital expenditure and boost consumer spending, Yasutoshi Nishimura told Reuters.

Nishimura's comments suggest the government would be open to a further decrease in negative rates as a way to get more money flowing through the economy and prevent a return to deflation.

"There are both positive and negative aspects, but I think the positive aspects are very big," said Nishimura, a

ruling Liberal Democratic Party lawmaker and a former trade ministry official.

"I'm sure the BOJ will examine this policy and make the appropriate decision." The BOJ will consider making negative interest rates the centrepiece of future monetary easing by shifting its prime policy target to interest rates from base money at its meeting next week, sources familiar with its thinking say.

The BOJ shocked investors in January by adding negative rates to its massive asset-buying program launched in 2013 to encourage inflation. The BOJ charges commercial banks 0.1 percent on a small portion of reserves they keep at the central bank. It is still uncertain whether the BOJ will cut rates further when it meets next week, but Nishimura's comments highlight positive aspects of a policy that was initially unpopular.

When first announced, some consumers feared that savings deposit rates would also go into negative territory. The policy was also unpopular among commercial banks because it reduces their earnings. Nishimura reiterated BOJ Governor Haruhiko Kuroda's pledge that he did not adopt negative rates to target deposit rates.

Negative rates have been very successful in pushing government bond yields lower, and borrowing costs have also fallen. Bank lending to the real estate sector has risen dramatically, leading to more real estate development. Falling mortgage rates are also beneficial because more people can take out loans to buy new homes and people who refinance their existing mortgage will have more disposable income, Nishimura said. — Reuters

PHOENIX IN TALKS TO BUY DEUTSCHE BANK'S ABBEY LIFE

LONDON: Phoenix Group Holdings, Britain's largest owner of life insurance funds closed to new customers, said on Friday it was in advanced talks to buy Deutsche Bank AG's British insurance business, Abbey Life Assurance. Deutsche Bank has been weighing the sale of Abbey Life since October, sources have told Reuters, as Germany's largest lender restructures its business amid increasing regulation, negative interest rates and a competitive home market.

"This is a substantial business and we are buying it if we get the opportunity," Phoenix CEO Clive Bannister told Reuters. "That is our intent and clearly it's subject to all sort of things that may or may not happen." He declined to comment on whether the company was raising funds and also the deal size. Deutsche Bank was nearing a deal to sell the business to Phoenix, with the latter planning to raise 800 million pounds (\$1.06 billion) to fund the purchase, a person close to the matter told Reuters on Thursday. Deutsche Bank declined to comment yesterday. Bannister had told Reuters in August that the company was scouting for acquisitions to help gain scale in a challenging, low-interest-rate environment following Britain's vote to leave the European Union. "To us, this deal could be the making of Phoenix as an acquisition vehicle for closed life funds and we eagerly await details if it does, indeed, proceed," said Eamonn Flanagan, an analyst at Shore Capital. Abbey Life, bought by Deutsche Bank for 977 million pounds in 2007, is valued at about 1 billion pounds, sources told Reuters in June. — Reuters

NIGERIA TO RAISE \$1BN IN EUROBOND MARKET

ABUJA: Nigeria plans to raise \$1 billion on the Eurobond market this year in a move designed to plug a budget deficit, said the country's finance minister yesterday.

Speaking at a press conference in the nation's capital of Abuja, finance minister Kemi Adeosun said the government had earlier this month approved the plan to issue international debt for the first time since 2013. Adeosun said that the bonds are expected to go on sale in December, with the proceeds channelled into capital projects. "We are about to appoint our advisers. We are raising one billion dollars," Adeosun said. "I want to re-emphasise that we have a strategic plan that will take us out of the recession that we find ourselves in. We want to make sure that this recession is the shortest possible."

Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari announced a record 6.1-trillion-naira (\$19.4-billion) spending plan for this year's federal budget to try to stimulate growth. The government will be seeking loans from the World Bank, the African Development Bank, China Exim Bank and the Japan International Cooperation Agency. "These concessional loans will go to the strategic sectors of the economy," Adeosun said earlier in September, citing the power and agricultural sectors as a key areas of focus.

Nigeria is in a recession, suffering from double-digit inflation and a massive drop in foreign investment as it struggles to undo the effects of a rigid foreign-exchange regime that led to a shortage of dollars and drained reserves. The West African country's economy is dependent on oil revenues, which have been hit by a plunge in the global price of crude and ongoing rebel attacks on infrastructure in the oil-producing southern region. — AFP

GOLD STEADIES AS US DATA CURBS RATE RISE SPECULATION

LONDON: Gold steadied above two-week lows yesterday after downbeat US data curbed already muted expectations for a US rate rise next week but uncertainty over monetary policy kept the metal on track for its first weekly loss in three. The CME Group's FedWatch tool showed futures traders are now pricing in a 12 percent chance of a rate rise this month, down from 15 percent on Wednesday, after soft US retail sales and manufacturing output data.

That kept a lid on the dollar, which was little changed on the week on Friday, and underpinned gold after its 1 percent slide this week. Spot gold was at \$1,314.33 an ounce at 0930 GMT, little changed from \$1,313.80 late on Thursday, a session when it hit its lowest since Sept. 2 at \$1,309.25. US gold futures for December delivery were down 10 cents at \$1,317.90.

"Gold didn't get much of a bounce yesterday from the retail sales data, which is somewhat surprising," Mitsubishi analyst Jonathan Butler said. "But if we look at what's happening elsewhere, oil's been down this week, equities are holding onto the some of their gains, and those things present something of a headwind to gold." "Things are largely on hold ahead of the Fed and Bank of Japan meetings next week," he said. The US and Japanese central banks are both holding monetary policy meetings on Sept. 20-21.

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

While expectations for a September rate rise have faded, a new Reuters poll of 100 economists showed a median 70 percent chance of an increase in December.

That could weigh still on gold, which has rallied 24 percent this year on expectations that the Federal Reserve would hold off on further interest rate rises. Investment appetite for the precious metal was soft, with holdings of the world's largest gold-backed exchange-traded fund, SPDR Gold Shares, falling 3.3 tons on Thursday. Demand for gold in India remained lacklustre this week as higher prices hampered consumer purchases, though discounts narrowed due to a correction in the spot rate. — Reuters

IMF PRODS MOZAMBIQUE TO ALLOW AUDIT OF SECRET LOAN COMPANIES

WASHINGTON: IMF chief Christine Lagarde yesterday pressed Mozambique's President Filipe Nyusi to allow an independent international audit of companies involved in a loan scandal that forced an IMF and World Bank aid cutoff. Meeting at International Monetary Fund headquarters in Washington, Lagarde told Nyusi the country needed "more decisive efforts to improve transparency" after the government was shown to have hidden off-budget some \$1.4 billion in debt, according to IMF spokesman Gerry Rice.

Those efforts would specifically include "an international and independent audit of the companies that were funded under the loans disclosed in April 2016," according to Rice.

The IMF and World Bank suspended aid to Mozambique in April after news surfaced that the impoverished country had spent \$40 million on a new aircraft for the president and had hidden the \$1.4 billion in borrowing. In May, a group of 14 donors including Britain, Canada, the European Union, France and the African Development Bank also cut off aid to Mozambique, which is heavily dependent on foreign support.

The unreported borrowing included financing support for two companies, ProIndicus and Mozambique Asset Management, and bilateral credit from another country.

Mozambique has said that most of the money was to fund maritime security and shipyards. According to Rice, Nyusi indicated to Lagarde that he would support the audit. "The managing director welcomed that the president indicated the Government of Mozambique's willingness to work with the IMF on the terms-of-reference for this process-to be initiated by the office of the attorney general-and to implement it," he said in a statement. He said that an IMF staff team would visit the country next week. — AFP



ABIDJAN: A worker is seen at a steel factory producing concrete reinforcing steel, in Abidjan. —AFP

WHY US A ROADBLOCK FOR OIL OUTPUT FREEZE

US CRUDE OUTPUT UP 2.87 M BPD SINCE 2010

LONDON: The price of oil has been caught in one of its most volatile couple of weeks in months after OPEC and rival Russia hinted they may discuss a possible output freeze, as demand slows and a global surplus becomes more entrenched. The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and Russia meet on the sidelines of the International Energy Forum in Algiers in two weeks' time. The pressure is mounting on both sides to not only freeze output, but possibly even cut it.

Whatever the rival factions decide, one producer has managed to top them all in terms of production growth over the last five years and will never be likely to join in any group efforts to control supply. And that is the United States. Since 2010, thanks to the boom in shale oil production, the United States has witnessed more growth in daily output than any other major producer.

US oil output is around 2.87 million barrels per day higher now than it was six years ago, compared with an increase of 2.47 million bpd from Saudi

Arabia and a rise of 1.9 million bpd from Iraq. In fact, the increase in US production is only just above the collective increase for the whole of OPEC, which comes in at around 3.15 million bpd. "If OPEC were to cut its production in Algiers, or really freeze its production, then prices would rise, and what producer would benefit the most rapidly from those high prices? It would be the US. We would be back soon enough in a situation where the US will move toward its previous boom-rate of growth and therefore start absorbing market share again," Wood Mackenzie analyst Ann-Louise Hittle said.

"It's another reason why it's difficult for OPEC to agree to a freeze" she said. "The US, especially now that it can export crude, is a global threat to market share, it's not just a threat indirectly through product exports anymore."

In November 2014, OPEC ditched its policy of restraining supply to support the price of oil, which has fallen by more than 40 percent since then to around \$46 a barrel. Increases in the likes of

Saudi Arabia or Iraq have been countered by losses in Libya and Nigeria or Venezuela, while Iran is just about approaching output levels registered prior to the introduction of Western sanctions in response to Tehran's nuclear program that were lifted in January 2016. Russia, the world's largest producer, has managed to add around 550,000 bpd to its daily output in this time and although Energy Minister Alexander Novak has said a freeze would "help markets", enforcing such a limit could prove tricky. "The structure of the US oil industry and the high number of players involved in US crude production would simply not allow for a freeze," JBC Energy senior analyst Alexander Poegl said. "How would you limit production growth, as there is no provision for the government to enforce this?" Poegl said. "This is the same argument Russia has used in the past, to a certain extent, although in Russia, where you have a limited amount of players that are highly connected to politics, it is potentially still easier than in the US." — Reuters

BIENKOWSKA PROPOSES JOINT DEFENSE BONDS AFTER BREXIT

BRUSSELS: The European Union's commissioner for industry will propose later this month that EU states issue joint bonds to expand the European defense industry, as part of the response to Britain's decision to leave the bloc.

Greater EU cooperation on defence has been frequently proposed but never materialised. The individual EU countries jealously guard their national defence industries, and Britain in particular opposed such proposals.

With Britain's decision to quit the EU, ideas for creating - and paying for - closer security and defence ties are re-emerging. Among them is a joint, permanent command headquarters for EU civilian and military missions.

"Our defence budgets are shrinking ... If you look at Russia increasing its defence budget by 97 percent and China by 160 percent, while the EU's has fallen 9 percent, it is really frightening," Industry Commissioner Elzbieta Bienkowska said in an interview. "We are considering pooling national budgets to fund common defence projects and issuing joint EU bonds," she said, adding she would present the proposal to 27 EU defence ministers on Sept. 27 in Bratislava, when they meet without Britain.

"Britain never expressed support, there was always resistance. But with Brexit we found interest, we have the momentum. The mood is quite different," Bienkowska told Reuters yesterday.

Bienkowska, who is in charge of the industrial part of the EU's new defence and security strategy, wants to create a European Defence Fund that could finance development of technology that the 27 states agreed they all need. She said the funding could initially come from a new line in the existing European Fund for Strategic Investment (EFSI) specifically for development of defence projects.

The EFSI was set up last year as a three-year scheme to finance infrastructure, energy, research and development in the EU. It works by leveraging 15 times its own 21 billion euros with private investor money. Brussels wants to increase the fund and extend it, although member states have yet to endorse that.

Bienkowska said EFSI could start funding defence projects next year but did not have a date for joint defence bonds. Germany has in the past opposed issuing common EU debt. — Reuters



Clothes by the Spanish Zara brand hang at the headquarters of the Inditex group in Arteixo, northwestern Spain. Spain's Inditex, the the world's biggest clothing retailer and owner of the popular Zara brand, is thriving thanks to its unique production model, relentless international expansion and online sales. —AFP

SHARES OF DEUTSCHE BANK PLUNGE AMID US DISPUTE

FRANKFURT: Shares in Deutsche Bank AG plunged yesterday after the revelation that the US Department of Justice has proposed the bank pay \$14 billion to settle civil claims over its handing of residential mortgage-backed securities.

It's the latest blow for Germany's biggest bank by assets, which is in the middle of a painful transition as it tries to meet tougher regulatory requirements, cut costs and settle multiple legal investigations.

Deutsche's shares were down 8.1 percent at 12.04 euros in afternoon trading in Europe. The bank indicated that it has "no intent" to settle at the level cited. "The negotiations are only just beginning," the bank said in a statement emailed in the early hours of yesterday. "The bank expects that they will lead to an outcome similar to those of peer banks which have settled at materially lower amounts."

That did little to reassure markets, which have been punishing bank stocks across Europe after a run of weak industry profits. Record low interest rates have narrowed the difference between the

bank's borrowing costs and what they earn in interest on loans, eroding profits. German Finance Ministry spokeswoman Friederike von Tiesenhausen said Germany was "aware that US authorities have agreed with other banks on settlement payments, and so the German government assumes that a fair result will be reached at the end of this process as well, on the basis of equal treatment."

She was asked whether German officials had the impression that the settlement demand was some sort of retaliation to the European Commission's ruling that Ireland gave 13 billion euros in illegal tax breaks to US firm Apple. "I don't share that assessment," she said. Deutsche Bank is among many financial institutions investigated over dealings in securities based on mortgages to people with shaky credit in the run-up to the 2008 financial crisis. The US government has accused the banks of misleading investors about the quality of the mortgage loans. Earlier this year, the Justice Department announced a roughly \$5 billion settlement with Goldman Sachs over the sale of mortgage-backed securi-

ties. Other banks that settled in the last two years include Bank of America, Citigroup and JPMorgan Chase & Co.

While promoted as relatively safe, such securities contained residential mortgages from borrowers who were unlikely to be able to repay their loans. That led to huge losses for investors, kicking off the recession that began in late 2007 as the housing market collapsed and investors suffered billions in losses. Deutsche's new CEO John Cryan has led a cost-cutting and restructuring drive that's involved job cuts and the bank's withdrawal from some smaller countries. He has said the bank is determined to clear up its legal problems but has stressed that the matters are not fully in the bank's control. Deutsche Bank made a scant 20-million euro profit in the second quarter despite 7.4 billion euros (\$8.3 billion) in net revenue. That followed a 6.7 billion-euro loss recorded in 2015. The International Monetary Fund in June said the bank was the largest net contributor of risk to the financial system among the world's largest global banks. —AP

ECB POLICY CHANGE IN FOCUS, BUT, NO DIRECTION: JAZBEC

LJUBLJANA: The European Central Bank's stimulus measures are working, so there is no need now for a change, and even if adjustments become necessary they should be incremental, Governing Council member Bostjan Jazbec said in an interview.

Although central banks are overburdened with heightened expectations, they have plenty of firepower left, as the remarkable innovations in monetary policy in recent years have proved, Jazbec, Slovenia's central bank chief, told Reuters. Fighting ultra-low inflation, the ECB has introduced unprecedented stimulus in recent years. Chief among them is its program of buying 80 billion euros (\$89.92 billion) of bonds a month, to pump money into the economy. Last week, the ECB said it was examining options to keep its asset purchases going, which markets took as a signal that even more easing may be coming. "Our policies are aimed at the real problem, they are calibrated with the right sense of measure and they are obviously working," Jazbec said in an interview. "We are only talking about the modality of changes and the extent of the changes, but the direction is right."

It was too early to conclude if more measures were needed, Jazbec said, but the ECB was not even close to its limits, despite relying on untested, unconventional measures.

"The latest forecasts and data confirm that the scope and pace of our decisions have been appropriate," said Jazbec, who is considered a moderate on the council and is seen by some as a potential swing voter. "There is plenty of room to manoeuvre; I'm not worried we would not be able to find the tools, if needed."

But with inflation undershooting the ECB's target of just under 2 percent for well over three years, the risk is growing that businesses and households will lose confidence in the ECB's policies, perpetuating ultra-low inflation and increasing the risk of deflation.

Even if the bank is getting little if any help from fiscal policy, it is now considering changes to its asset purchases that could expand the 1.74 trillion euro program. "The possible changes have already been discussed in public: change in the deposit rate floor, capital key changes, extension of the program, or the issue limit," Jazbec said. "They are all options being discussed on the committee level to prepare the Governing Council to make the most appropriate decision." Abandoning the so called capital key - keeping the size of purchases in proportion to the size of each country's economy - is among the most controversial proposals on the table. Germany's Bundesbank has already argued against the move. The other proposals would let the ECB buy bonds yielding less than its minus 0.4 percent deposit rate or buy an even bigger share of a certain bond. The changes are under consideration because the ECB is running out of assets to buy, limiting its room to manoeuvre before the asset purchases are scheduled to end, in March 2017. A six-month extension of the scheme, fully priced in by markets, would require the bank to increase the eligible pool of assets.

But markets were getting ahead of themselves, Jazbec said. They are becoming too impatient with monetary policy, which tends to work with large lags. "The trend in inflation prospects, based on our forecasts, is encouraging," he said. "Whether a decision is made or not made (in the coming months) depends on our understanding of data and information." —Reuters

JOHN MENZIES TO BUY PEER BBA'S AIRCRAFT SERVICES UNIT

LONDON: UK airport services and logistics group John Menzies Plc agreed to buy peer BBA Aviation Plc's ASIG commercial aircraft services unit in a deal worth \$202 million, taking a major step in consolidating a fragmented industry. Menzies has been under pressure to revamp its business, as a string of warnings and the departure of top executives attracted criticism from activist investors who have advocated splitting its aviation services and printed media distribution units. Investor Shareholder Value

Management (SVM), which holds over 7 percent of the firm, has urged Menzies to pursue more deals, a call the company answered by naming Dermot Smurfit, with a strong deals background, as its chairman this year.

"We are still very vocal about advocating for a split," SVM analyst Gianluca Ferrari told Reuters. "Nevertheless it has always been our view that the industry needs consolidation. The two things are not mutually exclusive. I think the scale will increase value." Menzies has been trying to

expand the aviation support business, which includes cargo and baggage handling and freight forwarding services and brings in most of its profits, as its once core newspaper and magazine distribution business continues to decline. Menzies said yesterday the proposed ASIG deal, which is expected to materially enhance its earnings in the first full year, would be funded via a 75 million pound (\$99 million) fully underwritten rights issue and a new debt package. —Reuters

WEEKENDER

NEW YORK: Gigi Hadid displays the fashion of Marc Jacobs during New York Fashion Week on September 15, 2016. — AFP

New York Fashion Week Concludes with the Marcs

SEE PAGE 24





LONDON: Models present creations from designers Teatum Jones, during the 2017 Spring / Summer catwalk show during London Fashion Week on September 16, 2016.— AFP



LONDON Fashion Week

Teatum Jones

LONDON FASHION WEEK PUTS BRAVE FACE ON BREXIT

LONDON: British fashion put a brave face on Brexit yesterday as it began its first catwalk shows since the vote, citing a surge in sales on the weak pound despite fears that leaving the EU will hit exports and increase costs. "It might not have been what we wanted, but I think there's actually a sense of confidence," said British designer Anya Hindmarch, one of hundreds showing their wares at London Fashion Week.

Organizers are hoping that the five-day event, which includes catwalk shows by Burberry, J.W. Anderson and Topshop UNIQUE, will help alleviate Brexit blues in an

industry that overwhelmingly wanted to stay in the EU. "We have to look at the positives. Over the past few months, our luxury and retail has seen a bounce in terms of sales in the UK," said Caroline Rush, chief executive of the British Fashion Council. "We're very much open for business, we're known to be collaborators with the rest of the world and I think it's an opportunity for us to really demonstrate that over the next few days."

Retail sales in Britain have largely held up since the June referendum vote to leave the European Union, easing fears of an immedi-

ate loss of consumer confidence. Analysts said this partly reflected falling prices, while the dramatic drop in the value of the pound has particularly boosted luxury items, which are now cheaper to tourists. But the weak currency will also make it more expensive to import goods from overseas, with high street giant Next among those warning of a rise in prices next year.

Hindmarch, who has stores around the world including in China, Japan and the United States, said she believed the overall impact would be "negligible". "Suddenly we're 10 percent cheaper to sell-so we're





LONDON: British design duo Teatum Jones greet the crowd after showing their 2017 Spring / Summer catwalk show during London Fashion Week yesterday. — AFP

going to be selling more," Hindmarch told AFP. "We might be four percent more expensive to buy, who knows? It's all swings and roundabouts, it balances. I really don't think it's going to be mathematically a big problem."

Rush added: "The industry and businesses really need to focus on their margin, really need to focus on their price and really think about that to protect themselves. "Many of our businesses currency hedge in any case, and for those that don't, it's made them think about it."

Nervous Italian suppliers

The potential loss of access to the European single market is a big concern, however, as the bloc accounts for about 70 percent of British textiles and apparel exports. "My biggest concern is my Italian suppliers, who are very nervous," Hindmarch said. "I make almost everything in Italy, so many people do here."

There is also the risk that restricting immigration into Britain—a major issue in the

referendum campaign—will deter the foreign talent that has helped turn London into a unique creative melting pot. "Many of our young designers weren't necessary born in the UK, but they came here to study, they wanted to stay and build businesses and they're now employing hundreds if not thousands of people," said Rush.

Prime Minister Theresa May held a reception of key industry figures on the eve of Fashion Week, following the example of her predecessor's wife, Samantha Cameron, who attended Thursday's event at Downing Street.

May sought to reassure the fears of the industry, which contributes £28 billion (\$37 billion, 33 billion euros) to the economy and supports nearly 900,000 jobs, while giving little away on her plans for Brexit. "From our home-grown start-ups to international fashion houses—every business in the industry will play a major role in ensuring we make a success of Brexit," she said.

Rush said the sector has sent a clear message to the government about its concerns,

but had also raised the potential opportunities. "There was a lot of talk about whether this is going to see a resurgence in manufacturing within the UK, how can we put investment into that," she said. — AFP



The Marcs conclude the fashionable week



NEW YORK: Models displays the fashion of Marc Jacobs during New York Fashion Week in New York on September 15, 2016. — AFP



Marc Jacobs sparkles at NY Fashion Week



NEW YORK: Marc Jacobs, the creme de la creme of American designers, brought New York Fashion Week to a glittering finale Thursday, delivering a must-see show starring multi-colored dreadlocks and towering platform boots.

In keeping with the artistic, theatrical look of his clothes, Jacobs took over the Hammerstein Ballroom, a former opera house, that gave A-list guests Whoopi Goldberg and Courtney Love, as well as the assembled press, a stunning view.

The stage was bathed in white, then soft pink from hundreds of naked light bulbs suspended from the ceiling, as some of the world's most famous models—including Karlie Kloss, Gigi and Bella Hadid, and Kendall Jenner—sashayed past.

The middle of the stage appeared dotted with oil-slick type pools of grease, perhaps reminiscent of an early 1990s rave warehouse, for the last catwalk show before the spring 2017 season jumps over to London, Paris and Milan.

American fashion is sailing into troubled waters. The fashion calendar is in flux: Tommy Hilfiger, Ralph Lauren, Tom Ford and Thakoon all unveiled looks for fall/winter 2016 — offering entire collections that were “see-now, buy now.” At great New York houses, the creative team is also changing. Diane von Furstenberg has handed over the reins to Jonathan Saunders; Oscar de la Renta passed away in 2014; Donna Karen has stepped down from DKNY.

Calvin Klein sat out the season, preferring to show spring/summer in February to align its calendar. Lauren offered a stunning collection on Wednesday night, but his clothes always stay true to his wearable, iconic look. In many ways it was left to Jacobs to carry the mantle of true creativity in the United States—shown on 52 different models, far more than most.

Coats of many colors

His models wore multicolored, but largely cream and

pink Rastafarian wigs coiled high on their head, and spring versions of the same seven-inch platform heeled boots and sandals that he unveiled for fall/winter in February.

Skirts were micro minis, there were metallic high-waisted knickers and skin-tight leggings and pants that all served to elongate the legs. Jackets, pants, skirts, bags and shoes were decorated in a riot of colors and sequins.

Each garment, each look screamed style. Everything was placed there for a reason, each item a piece of art and the entire look distinctively Jacobs.

His designs are adored by the fashion world even if it's difficult to imagine ordinary folk stepping out in them. But that's probably the point. There is nothing ordinary about Jacobs and he wouldn't want ordinary clients anyway.

His palette started out white and baby blue—embroidered jackets, metallics, over the knee socks with patterns or horizontal stripes—and then moved into bolder colors and there were witty takes on American sportswear.

There was a green and orange horizontal striped rugby-style shirt, military influence evidenced in camouflaged ruffled miniskirts, leggings and a coat, zips on tight red pants and smatterings of animal print.

Perhaps most lovely were various coats of many colors: a sequined version that glittered in the light, a suede coat in bloc colors—almost quilt-style but each bloc drawn on the bias—and a striking hot pink number again in suede.

The show closed with Irina Shayk, the Russian super-model girlfriend of Hollywood heartthrob Bradley Cooper, dressed in high-waisted metallic pink hot pants, a jacket of fur purple sleeves and a striped suede cropped jacket. And with that the last of the style set were likely heading to the airport, and jetting across the Atlantic for London Fashion Week, which kicked off yesterday. — AFP



Marc Bouwers



NEW YORK: Models walk the runway at the Marc Bouwers fashion show during New York Fashion Week September 2016 at The Museum of the City of New York on September 15, 2016.— AFP

New film shows how The Beatles helped fight segregation

LONDON: Music aside, the true power of The Beatles wasn't the volume of their fans or the popularity of their hairstyles — it was the pull of their politics.

The band's refusal to play to segregated American audiences in 1964 is one striking example explored in a new documentary about the band's tireless years on the road in the 1960s before Beatlemania forced them to stop performing live.

Director Ron Howard mined archival footage to reveal the Fab Four's shock at being asked to perform for a separated crowd for the film "The Beatles: Eight Days A Week — The Touring Years." The movie is now out in theaters in the United States and the UK. "We were kind of quite intelligent guys, looking at the political scene and, coming from Liverpool, we played with black bands and black people in the audience. It didn't matter to us," McCartney said.

"We played Jacksonville (Florida) and we heard that the whites and the blacks were going to be segregated and we just went, 'Whoa, no. No way,'" he said. "And we actually forced them then, which is very early on in the 60's, to integrate. We actually even put (it) in the contract."

McCartney and Ringo Starr reflected on their impact and the band's overwhelming success during an interview this week in Studio Two at Abbey Road Studio, where The Beatles recorded their

catalog. "When we first of all came in that door, as young kids ... we weren't even allowed up in the control room," McCartney said. "That was for the grown-ups. So we grew up here." "We all thought, 'Wow, we can make a record,'" Starr said. "That was the biggest deal in life at the time. And we kept coming back and we made some really great music."

The movie focuses on the years The Beatles played live from June 1962 until August 1966, which saw them performing 815 times in 15 countries. Eventually the uncontrollable, hysterical crowds of Beatlemania made touring impossible. "It's funny to say how it felt because it was so crazy," McCartney said. "We wanted to be famous. We wanted to do well. We were doing what we really wanted to achieve and it was getting better and better." "But it got out of hand and the story is that, in the end, it kind of forced us off the road so we had to come back to this studio and make 'Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band,'" he said.

Those who saw The Beatles live probably didn't hear them sound systems at the time couldn't outplay screaming fans. The movie features remastered music so audiences can actually hear the performances. A companion album, "The Beatles: Live At The Hollywood Bowl," has also been released. Now, the guys on stage can finally listen to what they were playing. — AP



LONDON: Musicians and members of the Beatles, Paul McCartney, right, and Ringo Starr pose for photographers upon arrival at the World premiere of the Beatles movie, Ron Howard's 'Eight days a week-the touring years' on Thursday, Sept. 15, 2016. — AP



NEW YORK: In this March 20, 2016, file photo, Henry Cavill attends the premiere of "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" at Radio City Music Hall. — AP

HENRY CAVILL'S MANAGER SAYS NEW SUPERMAN MOVIE IN WORKS

HOLLYWOOD: The manager for "Man of Steel" star Henry Cavill says a new standalone sequel to the Superman film is in the works. Cavill reprised his role as Superman earlier this year in "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" and is currently filming a Justice League film alongside Ben Affleck's Batman which is due out next year.

Cavill's manager Dany Garcia tells Newsweek that Cavill is "beginning to expand" the Superman world and is in development for the standalone sequel. Both "Man of Steel" and "Batman v Superman" received tepid reviews from critics but were big successes at the box office. — AP

'Game of Thrones,' 'Veep' defend Emmy crowns amid change

LOS ANGELES: Television has become a Wild West of adventurous channels and booming digital platforms, with intriguing new shows pouring into its wide-open spaces. But TV's chief currency remains the continuing series, which feeds into Emmy Awards repetition and statistics like these: "Modern Family" and "Frasier" each own five top comedy trophies, with a quartet of awards held by "Mad Men" and three other dramas.

Relief from this eye-glazing "Groundhog Day" sameness, however, may be at hand when the 68th prime-time Emmys air Sunday on ABC (8 p.m. EDT). Two big changes in TV academy rules could combine to bring upsets to a field of contenders from broadcasting, cable and streaming services, including Netflix and Amazon.

More to watch for in the ceremony, hosted by Jimmy Kimmel:

Whether the Emmys will continue to outpace the much-criticized Academy Awards when it comes to diversity. Each of the major acting categories includes at least one minority nominee, including last year's best-drama actress winner, Viola Davis.

How much of an irresistible topic the incendiary presidential campaign will prove for presenters and winners. With Kimmel, the question is how many punchlines it provides.

Whether the broadcast networks can achieve any reversal of their dwindling share of Emmy gold. Network shows that once dominated the awards have been reduced largely to onlookers, especially in the top drama series category where they've been shut out of the nominations since a nod for "The Good Wife" in 2011. A salute, however, to public broadcaster PBS' "Downton Abbey," a contender for its sixth and final season.

Epic fantasy "Game of Thrones" and

biting political satire "Veep" are poised to repeat as top series for the second consecutive year, and Julia Louis-Dreyfus is a favorite to earn her fifth best-actress trophy for her role in the White House romp. But they've got serious competition, including on the drama side from topical "Mr. Robot" and an invigorated "The Americans," and from sophomore sitcom "black-ish" - just some of potential beneficiaries of revisions in Emmy voting.

The streaming services, which have begun to make inroads with shows including "Transparent," might also reap more honors for shows including "House of Cards."

This year, the academy revised how votes are cast and counted, switching from a ranking and points system to letting voters simply check off their top choice. That sharpens the selection process and perhaps affects past winners

who managed to collect enough second-place votes to overcome the competition.

In another change, this one implemented last year, voting was expanded from blue-ribbon panels to - depending on the award - giving substantially more or all of the academy's 20,000-plus members the chance to vote for finalists.

Best actors, for example, had been decided by panels made up of 75 to 250 people in the academy's acting branch, said Tom O'Neil, author of "The Emmys" reference book and editor of Gold Derby, an awards handicapping website.

Now, all 2,500 branch members can jump in if so inclined - but they have to agree to view all episodes in contention before voting, as the panels did. In the program categories, including best comedy and drama, all academy members are eligible to vote. — AP



In this image released by HBO, Tony Hale, left, and Julia Louis-Dreyfus appear in a scene from the comedy series, "Veep." — AP

Japan choosing 88 animation travel spots to boost tourism

TOKYO: Eighty-eight places in Japan are going to be designated "animation spots" to encourage tourism - using train stations, school campuses, rural shrines and other fairly everyday places where popular "manga" characters are depicted.

Such landmarks number in the tens of thousands, given the popularity and volume of "manga" comics in Japan. But this is being billed as the official list for any fan's animation "pilgrimage," as the places are known as "seichi," or "sacred spots."

People around the world can vote on the landmarks through a website set up in several languages, including English and Chinese. "Japanese pop culture has grown to rival American Hollywood," Tsuguhiko Kadokawa, chairman of Kadokawa Corp. publisher and film studio, one of the officials behind the effort, said Friday at a Tokyo news conference. "Animation can change the times."

The project highlights Japan's recent push to make tourism a valuable boon for a stagnant economy, as dynamic as the export of the long-haired Toyota cars and Sony video-game machines. Tourists from abroad have grown, under a "Cool Japan" initiative, reaching 20 million people last year - five years ahead of a goal set by the government, prompting officials to raise its 2020 target to 40 million tourists.

Kadokawa and other officials behind the newly formed Japan Anime Tourism Association said they would compile a travel route of 88 animation spots by December, including where manga and animation works took place, as well as the homes of manga artists and museums dedicated to their works.

Votes from fans will be taken into consideration in compiling the list. "Vote for the special spot you want to share with everyone," the site says. One shoo-in for the list, according to organizers, is Washinomiya Jinja, a picturesque shrine in Saitama prefecture on the outskirts of Tokyo, a familiar scene in comics by Kagami Yoshimizu, which later became a TV animation series, "Lucky Star" or "Raki Suta."

The shrine is not as grand or famous as others in the country, such as Meiji Shrine in central Tokyo, but it's still the one to visit



TOKYO: Japan Anime Tourism Association officials, from left, Kadokawa Corp. Chairman and the association's Vice Chairman Tsuguhiko Kadokawa, Chairman Yoshiyuki Tomino, Director Yasuhiro Tsuboi, Director Tadashi Fujita and Director and Secretary General Yoshifumi Mori attend a press conference on the newly formed association yesterday while showing an entrance way view of Washinomiya Jinja in Saitama prefecture depicted in a Japanese TV animation series, "Lucky Star" or "Raki Suta" on the screen. — AP

for those who love the manga series, which depicts friendship among schoolgirls, all illustrated with the huge eyes and colorful hair characteristic of manga. The shrine shows up in the opening sequence to the TV show, whose typical episode will feature a heated discussion in cute, cooing voices on the correct way to eat

a pastry. Hopes are high at Washinomiya Jinja to be picked for the honors. "I'm all for it," said Teruko Masaki, owner of a restaurant near the shrine, which sells noodles and other products with the manga characters splashed on the packaging. — AP



PEBBLE BEACH, CALIFORNIA: In this file photo, Bill Murray hands out Bloody Mary cocktails to fans on the 17th tee of the Pebble Beach Golf Links during the celebrity challenge event of the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am golf tournament. — AP

Bill Murray to tend bar at son's Brooklyn restaurant

NEW YORK: Some lucky bar goers in New York will see a familiar face serving drinks this weekend as Bill Murray is set to tend bar at his son's Brooklyn restaurant.

Time Out New York says Murray will step behind the bar at 21 Greenpoint beginning at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday. The restaurant co-owned by Murray's son, Homer. Time Out

says the private event is guest-list only.

Murray knows his way around a bar. He once served up tequila shots in Austin, Texas, during the South by Southwest festival. The actor also handed out Bloody Marys to fans at the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am golf tournament in California earlier this year. — AP

Emmy nominees Zimmer, Hale and Malek party with Audi

WEST HOLLYWOOD: The Emmy Awards won't be presented until Sunday night, but the festivities have already begun. Show sponsor Audi hosted its annual pre-Emmy celebration Thursday at Catch restaurant in West Hollywood, California, where nominees such as Constance Zimmer, Tony Hale, Rami Malek and Melora Hardin were the guests of honor. Other stars enjoying the party included Elizabeth Banks, Jamie Foxx, and "Modern Family" stars Sara Hyland and Nolan Gould.

Though Hale already has two Emmy statuettes for his work as a supporting actor on "Veep," he's still anxious about Sunday's ceremony. "I still get excited about the free food and the free drinks and the way they decorate... I'm always pretty nervous because it's something I never thought I'd be at. I never thought I'd be on that list," he said. "My sister is coming to town, so I'm very excited about that, because it's fun to share it with her and see it through her eyes, because she's never experienced that."

He said they'll probably go to the farmer's market before the show. Zimmer is relishing her first Emmy nomination - supporting actress for playing coldhearted Quinn on "Unreal" - though she insists she won't win. "I'm up against Game of Thrones, I'm up against Dame Maggie Smith, Maura Tierney - it's an incredible group of women," Zimmer said. "Honestly, I don't even need to win. I mean, sure it would be great and amazing, but I'm just happy in this moment."

She's also hoping for a very specific celebrity run-in at the ceremony. "To be perfectly honest, I really want to meet Beyoncé,"

Zimmer said. "I just saw (her concert) last night and I'm like, 'She's going to be at the Emmys!'"

For Hardin, nominated for her guest starring role in "Transparent," there's no pressure Sunday. Her category was already presented a week ago at the Creative Arts Emmy Awards, where Tina Fey and Amy Poehler won for hosting "Saturday Night Live." "I won't be nervous sitting there feeling all the emotions," Hardin said. "I have some friends who are nominated who I'm very excited about, so it's possible I could have some nerves for them, but mostly I can just go and enjoy it." — AP



WEST HOLLYWOOD: Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series Emmy Nominee for "Mr. Robot" Rami Malek arrives at the "Audi Celebrates The 68th EMMYS" Pre-Party on Thursday, Sept. 15, 2016. — AP



MEDINA, SAUDI ARABIA: In this Thursday, Sept. 15, 2016 photo, a Saudi woman teaches Islam to women in Al-Masjid an-Nabawi or Prophet Muhammad's Mosque, which situates Muhammad's tomb. — AP



Amria from Dagestan, Russia, poses for a photograph near the Kaaba, Islam's holiest site, at the Grand Mosque in the Muslim holy city. — AP

The many faces of the female faithful at the hajj

MAKKAH: The annual hajj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia, required of able-bodied Muslims once in their life, brings the Islamic world together across its many languages, ethnicities and individual beliefs - something seen across the many faces of its female faithful.

Arabs, Africans, Asians, Europeans and those from the Americas all followed what tradition holds is the path of the Prophet Muhammad up Jabal al-Rahma, or the Mountain of Mercy. There, the Quran says the prophet delivered his final sermon calling for equality, unity and women's rights.

Women also walked along the path believed to be followed by Abraham's wife, Hagar, when she found the Zamzam water spring to save her son.

Wanting to follow those examples, a 25-year-old Ghanaian woman who gave her name only as Fatma over concerns about her personal safety carried her infant son Hisou slung over her back, walking long distances in a show of piety. "I walked from Medina to Mecca to Arafat and I will continue to Muzdalifa then to

Mina, carrying my son on my back because this is my faith to do it the right way," she said.

During the hajj, women wear the hijab, a scarf to cover their hair in deference to God. Some decide to return home and continue covering their hair in respect. But for others, their faith isn't tied to the scarf. "I am not convinced that hijab is a must and sign of faith," said 36-year-old Lebanese woman Dalia, who gave only her first name out of concern of her views affecting her career. "I have been treating people in a way I believe is ethical and human. I will continue to do so after the hajj."

Although gender inequality persists today in parts of the Muslim world, women played a prominent part in the founding of Islam, with the Prophet Muhammad's wife, Khadijah, becoming its first convert. And today, the women who took part in this year's hajj say they found a peace and fulfillment for taking part in the pilgrimage. "The hajj to me is a combination of childhood dreams coming true and it has taught me unity and diversity," said 29-year-old South African Fathima Akoo.

Here is a selection of images by Associated Press photographer Nariman El-Mofty showing the diversity among the women who took part in this year's hajj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia. — AP



Fatma, 25, from Ghana carries her son Hisou as she poses for a photograph in Arafat during the annual hajj pilgrimage, near the holy city of Makkah. — AP



60-year old Mariam Abdel Karim from Sudan poses for a photograph as she prays on a rocky hill known as the Mountain of Mercy, on the Plain of Arafat, during the annual hajj pilgrimage, near the holy city of Makkah. — AP



Syrian women from Hama make their way down after prayer on a rocky hill known as the Mountain of Mercy, on the Plain of Arafat, during the annual hajj pilgrimage — AP

Islamic site near Makkah among few still preserved

MAKKAH: Just outside the city of Makkah in Saudi Arabia lies one of Islam's most important historical sites - a cave where, according to tradition, the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) spent time in seclusion, contemplation and self-reflection.

It was here, inside Hira Cave located near the top of a steep hill called Noor Mountain, where Muslims believe God revealed to the prophet (PBUH) the first verses of the Quran through the angel Jibril, or Gabriel as he is named in English.

Today, the site is among few still preserved from the prophet's time - with help from Pakistani workers in the kingdom. Each year, observant Muslims deepen their prayers and supplication in the final 10 nights of the Islamic month of Ramadan, believing that it was during this time some 1,400 years ago that the miraculous revelation took place on Noor Mountain, also known as the "Hill of Light."

The hill itself is not part of the annual hajj pilgrimage, but its location so close to the holy city of Makkah and its significance as a place of enlightenment draws thousands of pilgrims here every year.

But present-day visitors encounter a markedly different summit from the one the prophet experienced. For starters, there are now more than 1,000 steps that guide pilgrims up the rocky hill to the secluded cave. Along the way, entrepreneurial Pakistanis sell bottled water, snacks and tea to pilgrims exhausted by the climb.

Unlike the quiet and seemingly endless stretch of nature the

prophet would have seen from the cave, massive high-rises housing five-star hotels jut into the distant skyline just steps away from the cube-shaped Kaaba, Islam's holiest site. The Pakistani workers and beggars who live off the mountain's draw say they play a key role in helping to preserve it.

Nizam Din, from the Pakistani city of Quetta, spends his days begging and fixing broken cement steps along the path up Noor Mountain. Jamal Khan, from Karachi, Pakistan's largest city and main port, also earns a living by serving the pilgrims who make their way to the cave. "Our lives here are better because we do not have jobs back home," he said. "What is a better place to be than here where the Prophet Muhammad received his first revelation from God?"

Makkah's mayor, Osama al-Bar, says the municipality ensures the area's cleanliness. There are also plans, he said, for the development of a visitors' center near the hill to explain to people its significance and history.

He said the area is watched over by the kingdom's religious police, known as the Commission for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice, who ensure visitors do not turn it into a place of worship that venerates anything other than God. Here is a selection of images by Associated Press photographer Nariman El-Mofty showing the Pakistanis who work on Noor Mountain. — AP



Sobdar Khan, 35, a Pakistani from Karachi, poses for a portrait on Noor Mountain, where Prophet Muhammad received his first revelation from God to preach Islam, on the outskirts of Makkah. — AP



In this Friday, Sept. 9, 2016 photo, Pakistani men live near Hira cave on Noor Mountain, where Prophet Muhammad received his first revelation from God to preach Islam. — AP



In this Friday, Sept. 9, 2016 photo, a Turkish Muslim woman prays outside Hira cave. — AP



Photo shows a sign asking people to preserve Noor Mountain. — AP



A Pakistani beggar who sleeps on Noor Mountain. — AP

CAN VOLKSWAGEN LEAVE 'DIESELGATE' BEHIND?

FRANKFURT: One year ago, Volkswagen's cheating on emissions tests for millions of its diesel cars erupted into public view, leaving the mammoth carmaker battling an unprecedented crisis. Barely a week has passed since that has not seen a fresh twist in the saga, which has tarnished Germany's proud auto industry and called the future of diesel as a whole into question.

Volkswagen has sought to make amends with mass recalls and a fresh focus on building cleaner cars, but a mountain of legal complaints and ever-louder demands for compensation have made it difficult for the auto giant to turn the corner. The scandal "has had huge effects on Volkswagen and the whole sector," said industry expert Stefan Bratzel of Germany's Center for Automotive Management.

VW built itself over decades into Europe's car champion and now sells vehicles under 12 separate brands—from Seat, Skoda and Volkswagen to luxury brands Audi and Porsche. The firm rakes in 200 billion euros (\$225 billion) in sales each year and employs 600,000 people globally. But the Wolfsburg-based group was rocked to



WOLFSBURG: Photo shows VW Golf cars inside the so-called cat towers of car manufacturer Volkswagen AG (VW) at the company's assembly plant in Wolfsburg, northern Germany. One year after 'Dieselgate', Volkswagen (VW) faces lawsuits around the world. — AFP

its core when US regulators on September 18, 2015 accused it of deliberately skewing emissions data. VW then publicly admitted it had

installed so-called "defeat devices" in 11 million diesel-powered vehicles around the world.

The software is able to detect when

cars are undergoing regulatory tests and lowers their emissions accordingly, giving them the appearance of being less polluting than really are. In response to the revelations, former chief executive Martin Winterkorn fell on his sword while insisting he had known nothing of the scheme, leaving then-Porsche boss Matthias Mueller to take over the whole group. But no change of the guard could protect VW from a barrage of lawsuits and compensation claims from the authorities, customers and investors.

So far VW has put aside 18 billion euros in legal provisions, which helped push the company to its first annual loss in more than 20 years last year. When the crisis broke, investors watched in horror as VW stock lost 40 percent of its value in just two days—burning up 30 billion euros of market capitalization. One year on, VW remains valued around 20 percent lower than it was before last September. The scandal didn't trigger a collapse in sales for the group, but vehicles sold as Volkswagens have suffered a knock—especially in the United States, where the brand was already limping. — AFP

SUBMARINES SURFACE AS THE KEY TOOL IN WORLD'S NAVIES

MILITARIES STEPPING UP DEVELOPMENT OF UNDERSEA CRAFT

WASHINGTON: Gliding stealthily through the ocean depths, attack submarines quietly shadow their quarry, ready to strike with torpedoes or missiles. Somewhat neglected after the Cold War, they are now making a serious comeback around the world. Militaries in Asia, Russia and the United States are aggressively stepping up the development, acquisition and deployment of the undersea craft. That's because they have realized that even the best surface vessels and warplanes are vulnerable to anti-ship or anti-aircraft missiles, says Bryan Clark of Washington's Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments, an independent think-tank.

"So they are shifting to more undersea capabilities to do some of the offensive operations that they want to carry out," he said. Nowhere is the trend more marked than in Asia, prompted by China's rapidly expanding military might. Beijing has established a range of maritime defense capabilities and highly sophisticated anti-aircraft systems that prevent enemy vessels from nearing its coast. China has also worked hard to build a fleet of attack submarines, and now boasts 50 diesel and five nuclear attack subs.

Australia signed a contract this year to buy 12 submarines, non-nuclear versions of the French Barracuda attack vessel. Vietnam has taken delivery of the fifth of six submarines it bought from Russia. Japan is expected to increase its fleet from 18 to 22 diesel subs by 2018. And India, Indonesia and Malaysia are all developing their own

underwater capabilities. The US Navy is paying close attention—and looking at its own fleet. Admiral Harry Harris, who heads the Pacific Command, has warned about China's military buildup in the South China Sea, saying the United States needs more attack subs in the region.

And General Philip Breedlove, former head of the US European Command, sounded similar warnings about Russia's renewed attention to submarines under President Vladimir Putin. In addition to providing a key military capability, submarines also act as intelligence gatherers, compiling data on enemy fleets and even monitoring what's happening on land. The United States uses its undersea craft to monitor North Korea, China and Russia, experts say. During wartime, submarines can cripple entire enemy fleets, while those equipped with cruise missiles can lurk off coasts and attack targets on land.

Underwater drones

Submarines have played roles in some of the more visible recent military operations. The USS Florida fired 90 Tomahawk cruise missiles into Libya in 2011 to destroy the country's air defenses at the start of the campaign to oust the dictator Muammar Gaddafi.

More recently, Russia unleashed a series of cruise missiles in December at Syrian targets from a conventionally powered sub in the Mediterranean. Aware of the stakes, the US Navy plans to halt the decline of its own fleet of nuclear attack submarines. The fleet

has dwindled to 53 from 100 or so in the 1980s and will shrink to only around 40 in 2029 if nothing is done. The Navy is now considering whether to continue building two nuclear submarines per year instead of a planned drop to one a year in 2021.

Despite the decline in sub numbers, the United States continues to lead technologically, ensuring its vessels can keep an edge. The Navy will equip its existing nuclear fleet of Virginia-class subs with a special new module from 2019 to enable the launch and recovery of underwater drones, which are expected to play important roles in future maritime warfare. "Submarines will become more like a little aircraft carrier, carrying different combinations of missiles and underwater drones," Clark said. "It will be much more about payload carrying than being the tactical platform like a fighter airplane."

Drones may lead attack and reconnaissance missions, as they will be able to sneak up on foes closer than their motherships. In July 2015, the USS North Dakota successfully launched and retrieved unmanned underwater vehicles in the Mediterranean. Most of the drones the Navy has been developing are roughly the size of a torpedo and can travel for just one day, Clark says. They can "do surveillance or go try to attack if they want to." However, the Navy is also working on two bigger drone programs. One is for a large-diameter vehicle around 25 feet (7.5 meters) long and 21 inches (53 centimeters) wide, Clark says. "It can go out for a month." — AFP

EU AIMS TO DEPLOY 5G TECHNOLOGY BY 2025

BRUSSELS: The European Union wants to make fifth-generation telecommunications technology available around the bloc and have free wireless connections in every city and major public venue within the next decade. European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said Wednesday that the EU's executive arm aims to have 5G technology deployed by 2025, saying that it could create 2 million jobs in Europe. He told EU lawmakers that every European city and venue should have free wireless internet access by 2020. Juncker called for more investment in high-speed internet, saying that "businesses should be able to plan their investments in Europe for the next 20 years." — AP

TWITTER TO LAUNCH APP ON APPLE TV

SAN FRANCISCO: A new Twitter app is coming to Xbox One, Apple TV and Amazon Fire TV, where viewers will be able to watch NFL games. The short-messaging service secured the rights to stream 10 Thursday night games this year as it attempts to broaden its appeal. It's hoping that live video of sports and other events will help stimulate more interest in its service. It's a crucial time for the faltering company that is trying to improve stagnating user growth, not to mention boost its appeal to advertisers.

The apps, which are free, will have all the live-streaming video available on Twitter. Besides the football games, this includes content from the NBA and Bloomberg News. It will also have other Twitter content, such as top tweets and Periscopes (video from Twitter's live-streaming app). Users won't need a Twitter account or a pay-TV subscription to watch the content. But they will be exposed to advertising from Twitter - and ideally might be lured into signing up for an account. In July, Twitter announced live-streaming partnerships with Major League Baseball and the National Hockey League to show out-of-market games.

These are games that are not shown on local TV channels. As part of the deal, the once-a-week live streams of the games are available to logged-in and logged-out Twitter users in the United States, Twitter said. The deal also made MLB games available worldwide, except in some international territories. Twitter is not the only tech company competing with broadcasters for streaming rights. Last year, Yahoo Inc. won the rights to broadcast for the first time a regular season NFL game across all devices - including phones, computers and tablets. — AP

THE REAL COST OF IT SECURITY TALENT SHORTAGE

200% PREMIUM ON RECOVERY COSTS

DUBAI: Large businesses that struggle to attract sufficiently skilled IT security experts end up paying up to three times more to recover from a cybersecurity incident. This is one of the key findings of the recent report by Kaspersky Lab based on 2016 Corporate IT Security Risks survey conducted by the company in cooperation with B2B International among more than 4000 business representatives from 25 countries including the UAE. Besides the measurable budget impact, a significant share of businesses is observing a growth in wages, a general shortage in expert availability, and the need for more specialists in the field.

Citing complexity of IT infrastructure, compliance requirements and the overall desire to protect business assets, companies are highly motivated to grow their security intelligence. In fact, for a third of businesses, the improvement of specialist security expertise is one of the top three drivers for an additional investment in IT Security. The growing demand is not easy to fulfill due to a lack of available specialists and increasingly complex requirements. Kaspersky Lab employs hundreds of security professionals, and the company's own recruitment managers report that on average, only one applicant out

of forty, meets the strict criteria for an expert position.

But the challenge is not limited to technical know-how. The report quotes Kaspersky Lab's security experts, who indicate that the need for security managers is even more substantial. On top of deep technical knowledge, managers' duties include communication with top management and overseeing the overall strategy - qualities that are especially important, and in fact, more appropriate, for large companies. The report adds a final touch to the bigger picture of talent shortage with education challenges.

Success in IT security requires a cer-

tain degree of passion for this particular IT field, willingness to constantly self-educate, and the ability to adapt to an ever-changing threat landscape. Higher education institutions recognize the need to revise their programs, and at the same time acknowledge the challenge of embedding security-oriented thinking into a wide variety of IT courses. Overall, 68.5% of companies expect an increase in the number of full-time security experts, with 18.9% expecting a significant increase in headcount. Higher education is an important part of fulfilling such a demand, but this is also a call for a change within the security industry itself.

APPLE, SAMSUNG STRUGGLE IN FACE OF CHINESE COMPETITION

BEIJING: The global launch of the iPhone 7 yesterday is crucial to Apple's fortunes in China, but both it and its biggest rival Samsung, hit by a recall over exploding batteries, are struggling in the face of upstart local competitors. The US and South Korean firms were relegated to fourth and fifth place respectively in the Asian giant's smartphone market in the first half of this year, according to consultancy Canalys. Ahead of them came three Chinese firms, leader Huawei with a 16 percent share, then two companies little known elsewhere, Vivo and Oppo.

Apple faces "a lot of challenges and pressures" in China from local manufacturers who are "developing medium- to high-end handsets and offer a lot of flagship products", said Canalys China analyst Jessie Ding. The iPhone 7 - which comes with an improved camera, a water resistant body and minus an earphone jack - "doesn't have many innovative features", she said, pointing out that its double camera function was available on a Huawei smartphone six months ago, and it lacks wireless charging capabilities.

In its most recent quarterly results, Apple said Greater China dropped from second to third place among its markets in the April-June period-when market research firm IDC says its iPhone sales collapsed by 32 percent year-on-year. For its part, Samsung has had to recall 2.5 million of its flagship Galaxy Note 7 handsets after faulty batteries caused some to explode during charging. The company has handled the issue badly, said Neil Mawston of Strategy Analytics, with slow decision-making, poor communications and a lack of coordination, and its image risks suffering.

"Brand loyalty is not as strong in China as in other markets," he said. "It's a very crowded, fragmented market and fiercely competitive, with rivals undercutting each other with price and design. So it's not a market you can afford to falter in." Low-priced Chinese competitors have been "particularly troublesome" for Samsung, which has in the past sought to offer phones across all price ranges, he added. It has responded by trying to focus on the mid- and high-end sector with improved models, which could make the recall especially damaging. And now, he added, "the Chinese companies are producing higher-end smartphones as well-and with a large degree of success." "In the last three or four years, local Chinese brands have been on a roll, fuelled by a swell of national pride in 'brand China'."

Aggressive marketing

Chinese manufacturers' great advantage remains price: Huawei's P9 boasts similar capabilities to the iPhone 7 but is almost a third cheaper. There is no official ranking of smartphone sales in China, and several different consultancies put out figures. Oppo-an unknown in the West-has experienced a meteoric rise since it launched in 2011, and according to Counterpoint Research, it became China's number one smartphone brand in June, when its market share jumped to 23 percent.

It is aiming squarely for the low end of the market. "Oppo has adopted a simple but effective strategy, going after the offline market... using aggressive marketing, promotions and sponsorships... beyond tier-2 and tier-3 cities," said Counterpoint Research director Neil Shah. Vivo, part of BKK Electronics, the same conglomerate that owns Oppo-employs similar methods, investing heavily in marketing to build up its brand image, and on a vast distribution network that extends to China's smaller and poorer cities and towns. — AFP



SYDNEY: The first group of customers including Bishoy Behman (left) and Marcus Barsoum (right) hold up their purchases at the Apple store in Sydney, Australia yesterday. Behman, a 17-year-old high school student who has camped on the street in front of the store since Wednesday morning was the first retail customer in the world to purchase the new model phone. — AP

IPHONE 7 LAUNCHES IN BID TO REVIVE APPLE FORTUNES

EXCITEMENT MIXED WITH FRUSTRATION

LONDON: Apple's iPhone 7 launch generated trademark queues and brisk sales in stores around the world yesterday, but excitement mixed with frustration due to supply shortages that left many fans empty-handed. Buyers queued up outside stores in Australia early yesterday to become some of the first consumers worldwide to get their hands on the device which comes with an improved camera, no headphone jack, and a water resistant body.

The picture was repeated elsewhere in Asia and then in Europe, where stock quickly sold out-either a deliberate sales tactic or because of supply problems, analysts said. "I really wanted the new camera and new software," said 49-year-old Paul du Buf, who was at the head of a queue of dozens of people under pouring rain at the Apple store in Covent Garden in central London. There has been much chatter among Apple fans since the new iPhone 7 and iPhone 7 Plus were unveiled about the groundbreaking decision to eliminate headphone jacks

and embrace a wireless future.

The California-based group is seeking to regain momentum and set new trends for the industry but it remains to be seen if it can generate the same excitement that surrounded previous versions of the iPhone. While the company has touted total iPhone sales of one billion, the number sold in the quarter ending June 25 fell 15 percent from a year earlier, highlighting concerns over growth for the key profit driver. Mobile phone markets are saturated and Chinese firms including Huawei are becoming increasingly popular.

Apple also faces stiff competition from traditional rival Samsung, although the South Korean giant is currently on the back foot after being forced into a massive recall because of exploding batteries. Apple shares finished up 3.4 percent at \$115.56 on Thursday as the firm said the iPhone 7 Plus and jet black version of the iPhone 7 had already sold out in pre-orders ahead of its debut in stores.

Tight control on supply

Analysts were divided over the cause of the shortages, with some saying the handset was more popular than expected, while others suggested the tech titan may be deliberately limiting supply or could be experiencing supply problems. "Apple clearly controls supply tightly," said Matthew Kanterman, an analyst at Bloomberg Intelligence. "They're possibly keeping supply artificially low, or at least lower than demand, so as to avoid having the oversupply of previous years."

As Asia woke up, consumers in Sydney who had camped out in the rain were among the first in the world to get their hands on the new phones-though others were left bitterly disappointed. Bishoy Behman, 17, had been sitting outside the Apple store since Wednesday morning but said he and others in the queue found out on Thursday that some models were already sold out. "I really wouldn't have lined up if I had known that," he said. "For them to have not allocated some stock is ridiculous." — AFP



09:20 Hunderby
09:45 Friday Night Dinner
10:05 New Tricks
11:00 Doctors
13:30 Eastenders
15:30 The Musketeers
19:10 Casualty
20:00 Doctors
21:00 Dickensian
00:00 Doctors
00:30 Eastenders
01:00 New Tricks
02:00 Death In Paradise
03:55 Unforgotten
04:45 Luther
05:40 Doctors

02:13 Lip Sync Battle
03:00 The Daily Show - Global Edition
03:30 South Park
03:54 Broad City
04:18 John Oliver's New York Stand Up Show
05:05 Inside Amy Schumer
05:30 The Daily Show - Global Edition



09:00 Destroyed In Seconds
09:50 Ultimate Survival
10:40 How It's Made
11:30 Storm Chasers
12:20 Mythbusters
13:00 Kids vs Film
13:50 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild
14:40 My Cat From Hell
18:50 Mythbusters
23:00 Invent It Rich
00:40 World's Funniest
01:30 Outrageous Acts Of Psych
01:55 Outrageous Acts Of Psych
02:20 The Willis Family
03:10 Guinness World Records Smashed UK
04:00 Destroyed In Seconds
05:40 Megaquake: Hour That Shook Japan



9:00 Lip Sync Battle
10:40 Ridiculousness
11:30 Frankenfood
12:20 Ridiculousness
14:30 Workaholics
15:20 Tosh.0
16:10 Catch A Contractor
16:35 Ridiculousness
17:50 Catch A Contractor
19:05 Workaholics
19:55 Tosh.0
20:45 Workaholics
21:35 Tosh.0
23:25 Workaholics
23:50 Ridiculousness
01:27 Workaholics
01:50 Lip Sync Battle

009:00 I Killed My BFF
10:00 The Haunting Of...
11:00 My Haunted House



12:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
13:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
15:00 Gangs Of Britain...
17:00 Britain's Biggest Heists
18:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
19:00 The First 48
23:00 Monster In My Family
00:00 Diabolical Women
01:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
02:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook



9:15 The Hive
09:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
10:10 Hank Zipzer
10:35 Binny And The Ghost
11:00 Violetta
11:45 The Hive
11:50 Mouk
12:00 Jessie
12:50 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
13:15 Tsum Tsum Shorts
13:20 Liv And Maddie
13:45 Bunk'd
14:10 Austin & Ally
14:35 Backstage
15:00 Alex & Co.
15:25 Girl Meets World
15:50 Austin & Ally
16:15 Disney Cookabout
16:40 A Bug's Life
18:15 Star Darlings
18:20 Backstage
20:25 Jessie
20:50 Jessie

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



09:10 Henry Hugglemonster
09:20 Calimero
09:35 Zou
09:45 Loopdidoo
10:00 Art Attack
10:25 Henry Hugglemonster
10:35 Calimero
10:50 Zou
11:00 Loopdidoo
11:15 Art Attack
11:35 Henry Hugglemonster
11:50 Calimero
12:00 Zou
12:20 Loopdidoo
12:35 Art Attack
13:00 The Hive
13:10 Zou
13:25 Loopdidoo
13:40 Gummi Bears
14:05 Sofia The First
14:30 Goldie & Bear
14:55 PJ Masks
15:20 Jake And The Neverland Pirates
15:35 Doc McStuffins
16:00 Sofia The First
16:30 The Lion Guard
16:55 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
17:25 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
17:50 The Adventures Of The Disney Fairies
18:15 Miles From Tomorrow
18:30 Doc McStuffins
18:55 Minnie's Bow-Toons
19:00 Goldie & Bear
22:00 Doc McStuffins
22:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
23:00 Sofia The First
23:30 The Adventures Of The Disney Fairies
23:55 The Lion Guard
00:20 Goldie & Bear
00:35 Miles From Tomorrow
01:00 PJ Masks
01:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
02:00 Doc McStuffins
02:30 Sofia The First
03:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
03:30 PJ Masks
04:00 Aladdin
04:30 Gummi Bears
05:00 Minnie's Bow-Toons
05:05 Henry Hugglemonster
05:20 Calimero
05:35 Zou
05:50 Loopdidoo



12:00 Boyster
12:10 Super Matrak
13:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
13:25 K.C. Undercover
13:50 Guardians Of The Galaxy
14:15 Supa Strikas
14:40 Kirby Buckets
15:10 Mighty Med
15:35 Lab Rats Elite Force
16:00 Lab Rats
16:25 K.C. Undercover

17:20 Supa Strikas
18:10 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
19:00 Mark And Russell's Wild Ride
20:30 Phineas And Ferb
20:45 Danger Mouse
21:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
21:15 Supa Strikas
21:40 Supa Strikas
22:05 K.C. Undercover
23:50 Annedroids
00:15 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
00:40 Danger Mouse
01:05 Counterfeit Cat
01:10 Gravity Falls
01:35 Pickle And Peanut
02:00 Lab Rats Elite Force
02:25 Supa Strikas
02:55 K.C. Undercover
03:20 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
03:45 Guardians Of The Galaxy
04:10 Marvel Avengers Assemble
04:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
05:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA



09:50 Living In Space
10:45 Breakthrough
11:40 I Wouldn't Go In There: WW2 Special
12:35 Myigrations
13:30 Untamed Americas
14:25 Dog Whisperer
16:15 Monster Fish
17:10 Hooked
18:05 Gok's Chinese Takeaway
19:00 Hacking The System
20:00 Machine Impossible
21:00 Science Of Stupid
22:00 World's Most Extreme
23:00 Mega Factories
00:00 Monster Fish
01:00 Hooked
02:00 World's Most Extreme
02:50 Mega Factories
03:40 Monster Fish
04:30 Hooked
05:20 World's Most Extreme Nat Geo Wild HD
09:45 Wild Scotland: Highlands
10:40 Japan's Wild Year
11:35 Hunter Hunted
12:30 Monster Fish
13:25 Salmon Wars
14:20 Animal ER
15:15 Baby Animals In The Wild
16:10 Make You Laugh Out Loud
17:05 Fish Tank Kings
18:00 Shark Nicole
18:55 Wild Indonesia (2015)
19:50 Ultimate Animals
20:45 Wild Scotland: Highlands
21:40 1000 Days For The Planet
22:35 Caught In The Act
23:30 Dangerous Encounters
00:25 Animals Gone Wild
01:20 Wild Scotland: Highlands
02:10 1000 Days For The Planet



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



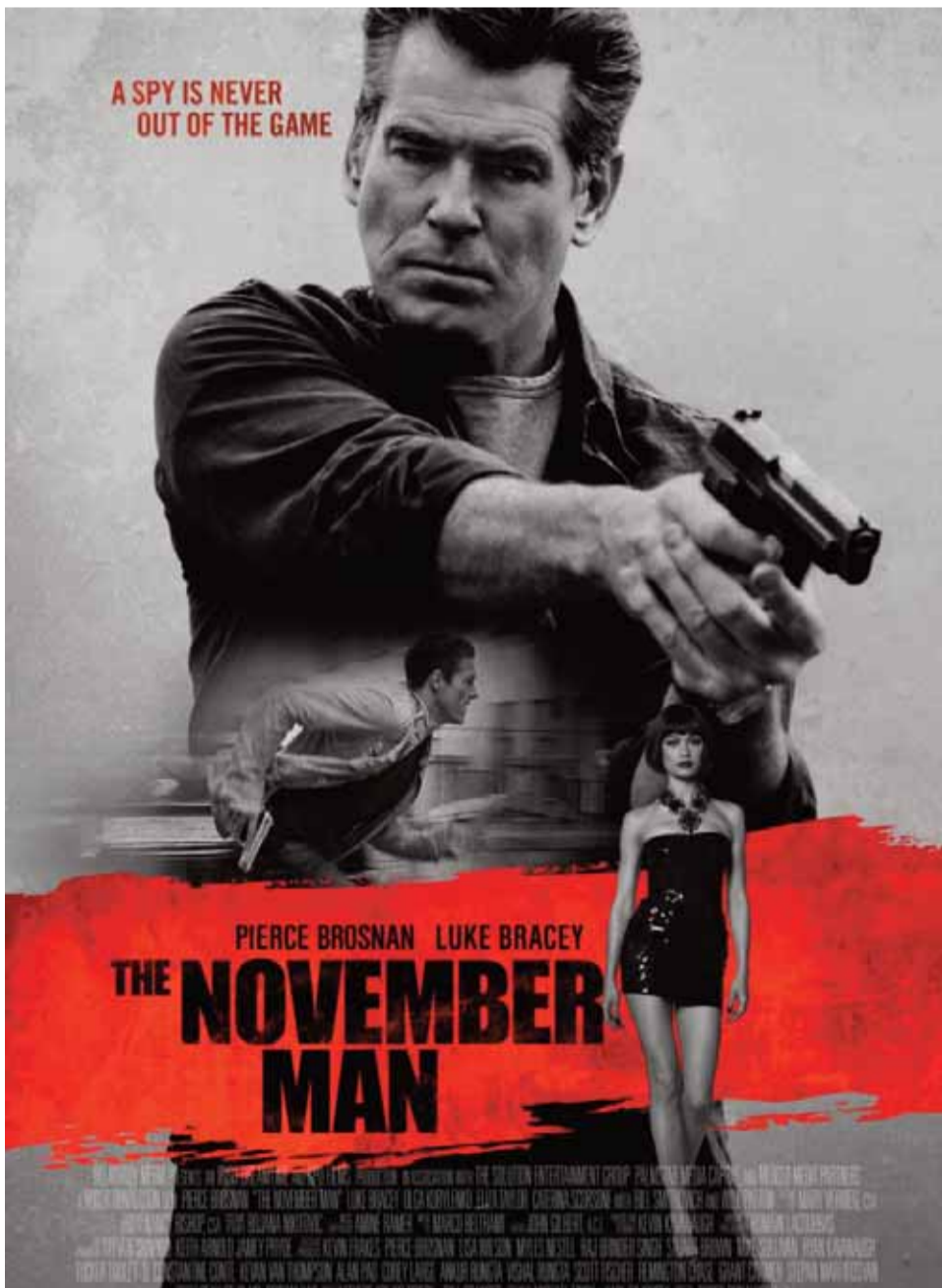
09:05 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
09:30 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
09:55 Lucky Chow
10:20 Rustic Adventures Italy
10:45 Rustic Adventure Argentina
11:10 Glamour Puds
11:35 What's For Sale?
12:00 Places We Go
12:25 Places We Go
12:50 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
13:15 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
13:40 Testing The Menu With Nic Watt
14:05 Miguel's Feasts
14:30 A Marriage Of Flavours
14:55 Tales From The Bush Larder
15:20 What's For Sale?
15:45 What's For Sale?
16:10 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Med
17:00 Gok's Chinese Takeaway
17:50 Confucius Was A Foodie
18:40 East Bites West
19:05 Trekking Malaysia
20:00 Raw Travel
20:55 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
21:25 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
21:50 Lucky Chow
22:20 Eat Street
22:45 Rustic Adventure Argentina
23:15 Glamour Puds
23:40 What's For Sale?
00:35 Places We Go
01:05 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
01:30 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
02:00 Lucky Chow
02:25 Eat Street
02:50 Rustic Adventure Argentina
03:15 Glamour Puds
03:40 What's For Sale?
04:30 Places We Go
04:55 East Bites West
05:20 Trekking Malaysia



9:00 Good People
11:00 Before I Go To Sleep
13:00 Fast Girls
15:00 Rosewood Lane
17:00 Changing Hearts
19:00 A Teacher's Obsession
21:00 Stranded
23:00 Rosewood Lane
01:00 Calvary
03:00 The Wee Man
05:00 The Bronx Bull



09:00 Superstore
09:30 The Goldbergs
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 Superstore
15:30 The Goldbergs
16:00 New Girl
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 The Goldbergs
20:30 The Goldbergs
21:00 New Girl
21:30 2 Broke Girls
22:00 2 Broke Girls
22:30 The Bernie Mac Show



THE NOVEMBER MAN ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2016

- 23:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 00:00 The Mindy Project
- 00:30 The Mindy Project
- 01:00 Baby Daddy
- 01:30 Fresh Off The Boat
- 02:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 03:00 2 Broke Girls
- 03:30 2 Broke Girls
- 04:00 Saturday Night Live
- 05:00 The Last Man On Earth
- 05:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers



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



INDEPENDENCE DAY ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD



- 09:30 Jurassic Hunters
- 11:15 Independence Day
- 13:45 Last Knights
- 15:45 Armored
- 17:30 Hidalgo
- 20:00 Independence Day
- 22:30 Flightplan
- 00:15 Armored
- 01:45 Battleship
- 04:00 The November Man



- 09:00 Marvel's Planet Hulk
- 11:00 Toy Story 2
- 13:00 It Takes Two
- 15:00 The Pacifier
- 17:00 The Incredibles
- 19:00 Eragon
- 21:00 Paddington
- 23:00 American Girl: Grace Stirs Up Success
- 01:00 Night At The Museum: Secret Of The Tomb
- 03:00 Marvel's Thor: Tales Of Asgaard
- 05:00 Paddington



- 00:00 P. Diddy Presents Bad Boys Of Comedy
- 09:30 P. Diddy Presents Bad Boys Of Comedy
- 10:00 Tell Me You Love Me
- 11:00 The Sunset Limited
- 12:30 Muhammad Ali's Greatest Fight
- 14:30 You Don't Know Jack
- 17:00 Game Change
- 19:00 Into The Storm
- 21:00 And Starring Pancho Villa As Himself
- 23:00 Game Change
- 01:00 American Crime Story: The People vs O.J. Simpson
- 02:00 Six Feet Under
- 03:00 Eastbound & Down
- 03:30 High Maintenance
- 04:00 Quarry
- 05:00 Angry Boys
- 05:30 The Brink



- 09:30 War Horse
- 12:00 Jack Strong
- 14:30 Anna Karenina
- 17:00 Fearless
- 19:00 War Horse
- 21:30 Monkey Kingdom
- 23:00 Anna Karenina
- 01:30 Decoding Annie Parker
- 03:15 Titli
- 05:30 Mary Shelley's Frankenstein



- 09:00 The Last 5 Years
- 11:00 Step Up All In
- 13:00 The Good Lie
- 15:00 The Last 5 Years
- 17:00 Ricki And The Flash
- 19:00 Cinderella
- 21:00 5 Flights Up
- 22:45 Imogene
- 00:45 Insurgent
- 03:00 The Curse Of Downers Grove
- 05:00 Trainwreck



- 10:30 The Adventures Of Don Quixote
- 12:00 The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie
- 14:00 Columbus In The Last Journey
- 15:45 Worms
- 17:30 Scooby-Doo! And The Beach Beastie
- 18:30 The Olsen Gang In Deep Trouble
- 20:15 Cher Ami
- 22:00 Yellowbird
- 00:00 Worms
- 02:00 Earth To Echo
- 04:00 Cher Ami
- 05:30 Yellowbird



- 10:00 McFarland, USA
- 12:15 Madoff Part 1
- 14:00 Cuban Fury
- 16:00 Veronica Mars

- 18:00 Spooks: The Greater Good
- 20:00 Diana
- 22:00 Cuban Fury
- 00:00 The Cobbler
- 02:00 Manglehorn
- 04:00 The Overnight



- 10:00 Jack
- 12:00 The Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy
- 14:00 My Father The Hero
- 16:00 Jack
- 18:00 Nitro Circus: The Movie
- 20:00 Sister Act
- 22:00 My Father The Hero
- 00:00 A Lot Like Love
- 02:00 Talladega Nights
- 04:00 A Fantastic Fear Of Everything



- 09:10 Emmerdale
- 09:55 Coronation Street
- 12:00 Catchphrase
- 12:35 The Queen's Worst Year
- 13:30 Victoria
- 14:25 Royal Stories
- 14:50 The Chase
- 16:30 Murdoch Mysteries
- 18:15 Grantchester
- 19:10 Tonight At The London Palladium
- 20:05 Royalty Close Up
- 21:00 Royal Stories
- 21:30 Victoria
- 22:20 The Queen's Worst Year
- 23:10 Paul O'grady's Animal Orphans
- 00:05 The Chase
- 01:00 Grantchester
- 01:55 Tonight At The London Palladium
- 02:50 Paul O'grady's Animal Orphans
- 03:45 The Chase
- 04:40 Coronation Street



- 00:00 Mega Builders
- 09:48 Mythbusters

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



- Syfy HD
- 09:30 Eureka
- 10:20 Killjoys
- 11:10 Face Off
- 12:00 Stargate SG-1
- 15:50 Smallville
- 20:00 Red Faction: Origins
- 21:35 Dark Matter
- 22:25 Face Off
- 23:15 Sanctuary
- 00:05 Sanctuary
- 00:55 The Mummy
- 03:00 Tremors
- 04:50 Morlocks



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

- 14:12 Harvey Beaks
- 14:36 Breadwinners
- 15:00 Get Blake
- 15:24 Rabbids Invasion
- 15:48 Henry Danger
- 16:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 16:36 The Haunted Hathaways
- 17:00 Winx Club
- 17:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 17:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 18:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 18:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 19:00 Breadwinners
- 19:24 The Loud House
- 19:48 Harvey Beaks
- 20:12 Lost In The West I
- 21:00 Lost In The West II
- 21:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 22:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 22:36 The Loud House
- 23:00 Sanjay And Craig
- 23:24 Harvey Beaks
- 23:48 Breadwinners
- 00:12 Henry Danger
- 00:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 01:00 100 Things To Do Before High School
- 01:24 Game Shakers
- 01:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 02:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 02:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 03:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 03:24 Breadwinners
- 03:48 Breadwinners
- 04:12 Sanjay And Craig
- 04:36 Sanjay And Craig
- 05:00 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 05:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 05:48 Henry Danger
- 09:46 Paw Patrol
- 10:10 Wanda And The Alien
- 10:19 Wanda And The Alien
- 10:30 Dora And Friends: Into The City!
- 10:53 Dora And Friends: Into The City!



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

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



GRANDMOTHER'S **apple** cake

SIGNALS FALL

By Elizabeth Karmel

My grandmother, who lived with us when I was growing up, had a serious sweet tooth and would bake something almost every day. In the spring, it was coconut cream pie. In the summer, home-made ice cream and peach pie. And during fall apple season, she would bake this very simple apple cake and serve it warm with vanilla ice cream or whipped cream.

My mother and I loved this cake - it's so simple, yet so satisfying and comforting - and never thought to write it down before my grandmother died. For years, we searched her recipe cards to no avail until last summer when I was doing research for a new cookbook called "Steak and Cake." Happily, we came across a recipe card that looked like it might be the thing. I made the cake immediately and as my mother and I tasted it, we finally knew that we had found the one. Sometimes, the memory outshines the reality. But in this cake, it did not.

As I was testing recipes for the cookbook, I added my

grandmother's apple cake to 10 other cakes, some classic and some new-fangled, for a neighborhood tasting the cookbook writer's version of a "cake walk." Everyone gravitated toward my grandmother's cake. I had to stop myself from adding a pinch of salt and a teaspoon of vanilla to the batter as I rarely make a cake without it, but I decided that I should preserve this cake just the way my grandmother made it. The batter is very stiff like cookie dough before you add the apples, but rest assured as soon as the apples give up their juice, the batter loosens and will bake beautifully.

GRANDMOTHER ODOM'S APPLE CAKE

Ingredients
Start to finish: 90 minutes
Servings: 8-12
4 generous cups raw apples, peeled and cut coarse (about 5 large Granny Smith apples)
2 cups granulated white sugar
1/2 cup vegetable oil such as Crisco
2 large eggs

2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
2 teaspoons baking soda
2 cups all-purpose flour
1 cup chopped toasted walnuts
Confectioner's sugar for decorating
Cooking spray
Pan: 10-cup bundt or tube pan

Preparation

Heat the oven to 350 F. Peel and chop apples and set aside. Meanwhile, beat together sugar and oil and add eggs one at a time until creamy. Whisk together flour, cinnamon and soda. Add dry mixture to sugar, oil and eggs by thirds. Remove from stand mixer and fold in chopped apples. Let sit for 5 minutes, stir well and add walnuts. Mix well. Pour batter into prepared pan - I prefer Baker's Joy or another brand of spray coating with flour - and place on a sheet pan to bake. Bake 60-65 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Let cool in the pan 10 minutes, then invert on a cake cooling rack. Dust top with confectioner's sugar if desired. —AP

Popping cherries tomatoes with delicious Burrata

By Katie Workman

If you want to end the summer with a bang and be reminded how the best and simplest ingredients produce the most magical results, then this is the dish to make before the leaves change and thoughts turn to stew. Burrata is a semisoft, white Italian cheese made from mozzarella and cream. Imagine the softest, creamiest fresh mozzarella ever, but the inside is filled with buttery cream that runs out when you cut it open. It's like the cheese version of a molten chocolate cake (a brownie-like cake with warm chocolate sauce in the middle).

Hopefully by now you're ready to jump in the car and find yourself some burrata. It's available at cheese shops and well-stocked supermarkets; if you can't find it, get fresh mozzarella instead, but don't give up the

search. Roasting the cherry tomatoes caramelizes them and brings out even more natural sweetness. You don't need to have them on the vine; this dish is also beautiful with an assortment of cherry tomatoes in different colors. You can make the (nut-free) basil oil ahead of time and store it in a covered container in the fridge for up to three days.

ROASTED CHERRY TOMATOES WITH BURRATA AND BASIL OIL

Ingredients

Start to finish: 1 hour

Servings: 8 as an appetizer

1 1/2 pounds cherry tomatoes, on the vine if desired

1/2 cup plus 2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil

1 cup fresh basil leaves

1/4 cup fresh parsley leaves

1/2 teaspoon minced garlic
1 teaspoon lemon juice
1/2 teaspoon salt, plus more to taste
Freshly ground pepper to taste
2 balls burrata (about 1/2 pound each), at room temperature
Crusty bread to serve

Preparation

Preheat the oven to 300 F. Line a rimmed baking sheet with aluminum foil and coat it with nonstick cooking spray. Place the tomatoes on the baking sheet and toss them with 2 tablespoons olive oil (if they are on the vine, just drizzle the tomatoes with the olive oil, and use your hands to make sure they are nicely coated). Season with salt and pepper. Roast for about 30 minutes, until they are wrinkly and slightly collapsed.

Meanwhile, make the basil oil: Place the

basil, parsley, garlic, lemon juice, 1/2 teaspoon salt and pepper in a food processor, and pulse several times to roughly chop. With the motor running, add 1/2 cup of the olive oil through the top of the processor. When the oil is added, scrape down the sides of the food processor and process again.

Transfer the tomatoes to a serving platter along with any juices that they have released, and let cool to barely warm or room temperature. They will release some of their juices as they cool, which is not only OK but desirable. When ready to serve, cut each burrata in half and nestle the cheese among the tomatoes, making sure not to lose any of the creamy filling. You may want to add a bit more salt and pepper. Drizzle about half the basil oil over the tomatoes and cheese and serve with the crusty bread, and the rest of the basil oil on the side for extra drizzling. —AP



LACK OF QUALITY CARE LEADS TO RISE IN MATERNAL DEATHS

MORTALITY RATES MUST FALL BY 70% TO REACH UN GOAL: STUDY

BOGOTA: Unequal access to health services and poor quality care for pregnant women is hampering progress in meeting international goals for eradicating deaths during childbirth, researchers said on Thursday. UN member states agreed a year ago to reduce the rate of maternal mortality, defined as a woman's death during pregnancy, childbirth or within 6 weeks after birth, to fewer than 70 per 100,000 live births globally by 2030 as part of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Globally maternal deaths have nearly halved since 1990 - falling to 216 women dying of maternal causes per 100,000 live births in 2015 from 385 per 100,000 in 1990.

But to reach the UN target, maternal

mortality rates would need to fall by nearly 70 percent, researchers said in a study published in *The Lancet*. Nearly 53 million of the poorest women in the world receive no skilled assistance during birth, the study said. Women who struggle the most to get good quality maternal care were teenagers, unmarried women, immigrants, refugees and internally displaced women, along with indigenous women and women from ethnic or religious minorities, the report said. "In all countries, the burden of maternal mortality falls disproportionately on the most vulnerable groups of women," said Wendy Graham, lead author of the study and professor of obstetric epidemiology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical

Medicine. "This reality presents a challenge to the rapid catch-up required to achieve the underlying aim of the Sustainable Development Goals - "to leave no one behind"," she said in a statement.

Most maternal deaths occur in developing countries, often caused by unsafe abortions, excessive bleeding, high blood pressure or infection during pregnancy, childbirth or the period shortly after delivery, health experts say.

WIDENING GAP

The gap between countries with the lowest and highest maternal mortality rates has doubled between 1990 and 2013 and huge differences exist within countries, including rich countries like the United States, the report said. For example, African-American women in New York City are twice as likely to die in childbirth as women living in the developing region of Eastern Asia, it said.

In sub-Saharan Africa, the risk of a woman dying in pregnancy or childbirth during her lifetime remains 1 in 36 women compared with 1 in 4,900 in richer countries, it added.

To meet the SDGs, an estimated 18 million additional health workers are needed, including midwives and obstetricians, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, the report said.

Researchers said too many birth facilities still lack basic equipment, water, sanitation and electricity. The report said a trend of over-prescribing tests, antibiotics after birth, unnecessary caesarean delivery and induced labour also amounted to poor maternal healthcare.

"Too many experience one of two extremes: too little, too late, where women receive care that is not timely or sufficient, and too much, too soon, marked by over-medicalisation and excessive use of unnecessary interventions," the report said. The problem of over-medicalisation has traditionally been found in rich countries but it has become more common in low-and middle-income countries, bringing higher health costs and the risk of harm, the report said. — Reuters



MIAMI BEACH: Demonstrators cheer at a city commission meeting in Miami Beach, Florida. Opponents want to stop the aerial spraying of the insecticide naled, used to combat the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito. —AP

INDIA UNREST FORCES DOCTORS TO SMUGGLE TRANSPLANT PATIENT

BANGALORE: Doctors in India smuggled a desperately ill patient across state borders under cover of darkness to receive a liver transplant after police said violent protests would make a journey by ambulance too dangerous. Police halted traffic between the southern states of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka after protesters angered by water shortages began rioting and torching vehicles. The move forced doctors at a Karnataka hospital to come up with an alternative plan after a liver for transplant became available for their patient at a hospital in Tamil Nadu.

Arikichenin Olithselvan, a doctor at the Manipal Hospital in Karnataka, said they had to ditch their ambulance and wheel the 55-year-old man across the border before finding a local ambulance to ferry him on to the hospital where the operation would take place. "We had to take out the patient from ambulance and put him on a wheel chair," he told AFP yesterday. "They (police) did not want to take chance in allowing our ambulance with a serious patient cross the border."

Vehicles from both the southern states were stoned and burnt by protesters over the sharing of the Cauvery river water, police have not been allowing even ambulances with Karnataka number plates to drive into Tamil Nadu across the tense border. Thousands of police officers have been deployed in Karnataka and a curfew declared after protesters set buses and cars ablaze this week. The protests erupted after the Supreme Court ordered Karnataka state to release water from a river to ease a shortage in Tamil Nadu until later this month. Two people have been killed in the violence in Bangalore, which is known as India's Silicon Valley and is home to local IT companies as well as offices of international giants such as Amazon and Microsoft. India suffers severe water shortages that cause frequent tensions between states and the row over sharing the Cauvery River, which starts in drought-hit Karnataka, stretches back decades. Olithselvan said the 12-hour transplant operation had gone well and the patient was recovering. — AFP



BRANDENBURG: Cranes fly at sunrise near the village of Bending in Brandenburg, eastern Germany, yesterday. —AFP

AMID TIGHTER RACE, CLINTON AND TRUMP TRADE BARBS OVER HEALTH

GREENSBORO, NC: Hillary Clinton returned to campaigning without offering apologies for keeping her pneumonia a secret, focusing on criticizing opponent Donald Trump instead of how she handled her health problem and the three-day rest ordered by her doctor.

To the strains of James Brown's "I Feel Good," the Democratic presidential candidate returned to the campaign trail Thursday at a rally in North Carolina. It was her first public outing since she stumbled and needed support from aides while leaving a 9/11 memorial in New York last Sunday. The episode, caught on video, was attributed to dizziness and dehydration. And it led to an acknowledgment by the Clinton campaign that she had been diagnosed with pneumonia two days earlier. Clinton told supporters Thursday that while sitting at home this week was "pretty much the last place I wanted to be," the time away from campaign events helped clarify how she wants to close her race against the billionaire real estate mogul Trump. "We're offering ideas, not insults," she said in a jab at her Republican rival. "A plan that will make a real difference in people's lives, not prejudice and paranoia."

In New York, Trump laid out plans to lower taxes by \$4.4 trillion over a decade and cut regulations, including some of those currently intended to protect the food Americans eat and the air they breathe. The Republican said his plans would bolster economic growth by at least a 3.5 percent annual rate, well above its current rate of about 2 percent. He also said his plan would create 25 million new jobs over the next 10 years - a pace already being achieved.

The heart of Trump's plan is a revised tax code, which includes a pledge that no business should pay more than 15 percent of its income in taxes, down from the current 35 percent top corporate tax rate. Few businesses now pay the full 35 percent rate, however, taking advantage instead of many deductions allowed under the existing tax code.

Medical report

Amid questions about both candidates' openness regarding their health, Trump released a new letter from his doctor detailing his blood pressure, cholesterol and medications. That came a day after Clinton made public a letter from her physician with similar information. Both candidates' doctors declared them fit to serve as president.

Trump's letter said the Republican is 6-foot-3 and 236 pounds - giving him a body mass index falling into the "over-weight" range. The 70-year-old has blood pressure of 116 over 70, and his total cholesterol is 169, his doctor says.

Clinton, 68, has blood pressure of 100 over 70, and her total cholesterol is 189, according to her doctor. Her letter made no mention of her weight, a key part of a medical exam; nor did a similar letter released last year. Until Thursday, the only information on Trump's health had come in a widely ridiculed letter from his doctor declaring he would be the healthiest person to ever serve as president. Before releasing the new details to the public, Trump turned over a copy to Dr. Mehmet Oz while taping an episode of Oz's TV show. The campaigns traded barbs on the health question, with Clinton's organization mocking her opponent's "showmanship" and Trump's campaign pointing to his stamina to endure "uninterrupted" the rigors of campaigning. With two months until Election Day, the race between Clinton and Trump is far tighter than many in both parties expected. Clinton continues to be dragged down by voters' mistrust, but she still maintains more pathways than Trump to the 270 Electoral College votes needed to win the White House. — AP

OREGON SETTLES LAWSUIT FOR BOTCHED HEALTHCARE ROLLOUT

PORTLAND, Ore: Oregon settled with a California software giant in a lawsuit that accused Oracle America Inc. of collecting tens of millions of dollars to create a state health care exchange website that didn't work. The state initially asked for more than \$6 billion in punitive damages when it filed the lawsuit in 2014 against the Redwood Shores, California company, but Oregon ultimately accepted a package that included \$35 million in cash payments and software licensing agreements and technical support with an estimated upfront worth of \$60 million.

Non-cash value

The state paid Oracle \$240 million to create its Cover Oregon website but ultimately abandoned the site and joined the federal exchange to comply with the Affordable Care Act. Most of the money used to pay Oracle was from federal funds designated to help states comply with the new health care law and that is likely why the settlement relies mostly on non-cash value, said David Friedman, an associate professor of law at Willamette University who has closely followed the litigation.

"The government would say, 'Thank you for being our collection agency. We're going to take that back,'" he said. "That's why this is coming out as credits and things that are a little bit to the side of the direct verdict. Oracle has probably convinced them that this is their best shot at collecting the best value."

Six years of unlimited Oracle software and technical support included in the deal will save the state hundreds of millions of dollars in years to come and ends a bitter legal battle that has damaged Oregon's "collective psyche," Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum said in a statement. "The beauty of the deal is that if we choose to take full advantage of the free (software), we are uniquely situated to modernize our statewide IT systems over the next six years -something we could not otherwise afford to do," she said.

The cash payments include \$25 million to reimburse the state's legal fees and a \$10 million grant to fund math, science and technology education in Oregon schools. Oracle has insisted the website worked but former Gov. John Kitzhaber chose not to use it for political reasons. — AP

STUDY: WORLD MUST BE READY FOR MICROCEPHALY 'EPIDEMIC'
NO CURE, NO VACCINE FOR NEW 'GLOBAL EPIDEMIC'

PARIS: The world should prepare for a "global epidemic" of microcephaly, a condition which restricts head growth in fetuses, as the Zika virus takes root in new countries, researchers said yesterday. Scientists from Brazil and Britain said they had found additional evidence that Zika is what causes the often debilitating disorder, a link already widely accepted in medical circles.

In a study conducted among newborns in Brazil-hardest hit by a joint outbreak-nearly half of 32 infants with microcephaly had traces of Zika virus in their blood or cerebrospinal fluid, the team reported. None of 62 infants born with normal heads tested positive for Zika in their blood.

This "striking association", the researchers wrote in The Lancet Infectious Diseases journal, led them to "conclude that the microcephaly epidemic is a result of congenital Zika virus infection". If this is the case, "we should prepare for the epidemic of microcephaly to expand to all countries with current (local) Zika virus transmission and to those countries where transmission of the virus is likely to spread," the team wrote. "We recommend... that we prepare for a global epidemic of microcephaly and other manifestations of congenital Zika syndrome."

The researchers also proposed adding Zika to a category of congenital infections known to happen before or during birth. The list includes toxoplasmosis, syphilis, rubella, cytomegalovirus, HIV and herpes. Zika is a virus spread



KUALA LUMPUR: A worker of Ministry of Health Malaysia carries out mosquito fogging at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Two new Zika virus infection cases were detected on Tuesday raising the total number of cases in the country to six. —AP

mainly by mosquitoes, but in rare cases via sex. In most people, including pregnant women, it is benign with mild or no symptoms.

No cure, no vaccine

But in an outbreak that started mid-2015, it has been linked to microcephaly and rare, adult-onset neurological problems such as Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS), which can result in paralysis and death. More than 1.5 million people have been infected with Zika, mainly in Brazil, and more than 1,600 babies have been born with microcephaly since last year, according to the World Health

Organization (WHO). There is no cure or vaccine. The researchers said theirs was the first study to compare children with microcephaly to a "control" sample of healthy children-two controls for every malformed baby. Using a control group is a way for scientists to test the impact of a single variable-in this case Zika infection-between two groups that are otherwise as similar as possible. Eighty percent of women who gave birth to babies with microcephaly had been infected by Zika while pregnant, the team found-compared to 64 percent of mothers who delivered healthy offspring. — AFP

CLINIC PAGE

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

SHARQIA-1

BEN-HUR	11:45 AM
BEN-HUR	2:00 PM
BLAIR WITCH	4:15 PM
BEN-HUR	6:15 PM
BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	8:30 PM
BLAIR WITCH	10:45 PM
BLAIR WITCH	12:45 AM

SHARQIA-2

PETE'S DRAGON	12:45 PM
PETE'S DRAGON -3D	3:00 PM
PETE'S DRAGON	5:15 PM
ASHAN KHARGEN	7:30 PM
ASHAN KHARGEN	9:45 PM
ASHAN KHARGEN	12:05 AM

SHARQIA-3

SNOWDEN	1:00 PM
SULLY	1:30 PM
SNOWDEN	3:30 PM
SULLY	6:00 PM
SNOWDEN	8:00 PM
SULLY	10:30 PM
SNOWDEN	12:30 AM

MUHALAB-1

BEN-HUR	12:00 PM
BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	2:30 PM
BEN-HUR	4:45 PM
LIGHTS OUT	7:15 PM
BEN-HUR	9:15 PM
BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	11:45 PM

MUHALAB-2

SNOWDEN	12:30 PM
SNOWDEN	3:00 PM
SULLY	5:30 PM
SNOWDEN	7:30 PM
SULLY	10:00 PM
SNOWDEN	12:05 AM

MUHALAB-3

PETE'S DRAGON	1:15 PM
SULLY	1:30 PM
PETE'S DRAGON -3D	3:30 PM
PETE'S DRAGON	5:45 PM
ASHAN KHARGEN	8:00 PM
ASHAN KHARGEN	10:15 PM
ASHAN KHARGEN	12:30 AM

FANAR-1

PETE'S DRAGON	12:15 PM
PETE'S DRAGON	2:30 PM
PETE'S DRAGON	4:45 PM
SULLY	7:00 PM
SULLY	9:00 PM
SULLY	11:00 PM
SULLY	1:00 AM

FANAR-2

SNOWDEN	12:00 PM
KILL ZONE 2	2:30 PM
SNOWDEN	5:00 PM
KILL ZONE 2	7:30 PM
SNOWDEN	10:00 PM
SNOWDEN	12:30 AM

FANAR-3

BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	1:30 PM
BEN-HUR	3:45 PM
BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	6:00 PM
BEN-HUR	8:15 PM
BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	10:30 PM
BEN-HUR	12:45 AM

FANAR-4

SULLY	1:00 PM
SULLY	3:00 PM
ASHAN KHARGEN	5:00 PM
SAWALIF TAFASH: JAZERAT AI HILAMAYA	7:15 PM
ASHAN KHARGEN	9:30 PM

FANAR-5

ASHAN KHARGEN	11:45 PM
BEN-HUR	11:45 AM
BEN-HUR	2:00 PM
BLAIR WITCH	4:15 PM
BLAIR WITCH	6:15 PM
BLAIR WITCH	8:15 PM
BLAIR WITCH	10:15 PM
BLAIR WITCH	12:15 AM

MARINA-1

SNOWDEN	11:45 AM
SNOWDEN	2:15 PM
BEN-HUR	4:45 PM
SNOWDEN	7:00 PM
BEN-HUR	9:30 PM
SNOWDEN	12:05 AM

MARINA-2

ASHAN KHARGEN	1:00 PM
ASHAN KHARGEN	3:15 PM
BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	5:30 PM
ASHAN KHARGEN	7:45 PM
ASHAN KHARGEN	10:00 PM
BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	12:15 AM

MARINA-3

SULLY	12:00 PM
SULLY	2:00 PM
PETE'S DRAGON	4:15 PM
PETE'S DRAGON	6:30 PM
SULLY	8:45 PM
BLAIR WITCH	10:45 PM
BLAIR WITCH	12:45 AM

AVENUES-1

BEN-HUR	11:30 AM
BLOOD FATHER	2:00 PM
ANTBOY 3	4:15 PM
ANTBOY 3	6:15 PM
BEN-HUR	8:15 PM
BEN-HUR	10:45 PM
BEN-HUR	1:00 AM

AVENUES-2

PETE'S DRAGON -3D-4DX	1:00 PM
PETE'S DRAGON -3D-4DX	3:15 PM
PETE'S DRAGON -3D-4DX	5:30 PM
BEN-HUR -3D-4DX	7:45 PM
BEN-HUR -3D-4DX	10:15 PM
BEN-HUR -3D-4DX	12:45 AM

AVENUES-3

SNOWDEN	11:45 AM
SNOWDEN	2:30 PM
SNOWDEN	5:00 PM
SNOWDEN	7:30 PM
SNOWDEN	10:00 PM
SNOWDEN	12:45 AM

AVENUES-4

ASHAN KHARGEN	12:30 PM
BEN-HUR	2:45 PM
ASHAN KHARGEN	5:00 PM
ASHAN KHARGEN	7:15 PM
ASHAN KHARGEN	9:30 PM
BEN-HUR	11:45 PM

AVENUES-5

PETE'S DRAGON	11:30 AM
PETE'S DRAGON -3D	1:45 PM
SULLY	4:00 PM
PETE'S DRAGON	6:00 PM
SULLY	8:15 PM
SULLY	10:30 PM
BLAIR WITCH	12:45 AM

AVENUES-6

ASHAN KHARGEN	12:15 PM
ASHAN KHARGEN	2:30 PM
ASHAN KHARGEN	4:45 PM
ASHAN KHARGEN	7:00 PM

PRAYER TIMINGS

Fajr:	04:14
Shorook	05:33
Duhr:	11:43
Asr:	15:12
Maghrib:	17:51
Isha:	19:09



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Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381



Flight Schedule

DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Saturday 17/9/2016

Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
MSC	415	Sohag	00:10
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10
JZR	239	Amman	00:20
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30
CLX	852	Luxembourg	00:35
FEG	951	Alexandria	00:35
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55
DLH	635	Doha	01:00
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20
SAI	441	Lahore	01:30
KAC	1802	Cairo	01:30
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45
RJA	642	Amman	01:45
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50
KKK	6506	Istanbul	02:00
MSC	501	Alexandria	02:00
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15
UAE	853	Dubai	02:25
OMA	643	Muscat	02:35
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05
RJA	644	Amman	03:10
FDB	067	Dubai	03:15
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15
QTR	1076	Doha	03:25
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:30
KAC	544	Cairo	03:40
KAC	514	Tehran	03:50
THY	1416	Bursa	04:05
JZR	555	Alexandria	04:15
AVV	653	Alexandria	04:30
FEG	931	Alexandria	05:00
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10
THY	3920	Istanbul	05:10
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15
UAE	2571	Dubai	05:30
SYR	341	Damascus	06:00
JZR	529	Asyut	06:00
PAL	668	Manila/Dubai	06:25
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:30
BAW	157	London	06:40
JZR	563	Sohag	06:55
JZR	1541	Cairo	07:10
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15
JZR	503	Luxor	07:25
JZR	1335	Al Najaf	07:25
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	07:35
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40
KAC	204	Lahore	07:40
SVA	512	Riyadh	07:50
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50
KAC	344	Chennai	08:15
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:15
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25
JZR	557	Alexandria	08:30
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:00
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:00
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20
RJA	648	Amman	09:30
FBA	833	Al Najaf	09:35
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40
SAW	703	Damascus	09:45
CCE	341	Alexandria	10:00
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40
JZR	1141	Dammam	10:40
IRM	1188	Mashhad	11:10
JZR	325	Al Najaf	11:20
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:30
ABY	129	Sharjah	11:35
IRC	6511	ABD	11:40
FDK	801	Damascus	11:45
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50
IAW	157	Al Najaf	11:55
AVV	651	Sohag	12:05
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30
JZR	241	Amman	12:30
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45
FEG	933	Sohag	12:55
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00
RJD	132	Abu Dhabi	13:05
THY	766	Istanbul	13:10
IRC	526	Mashhad	13:35
TBM	6313	Mashhad	13:45
BON	101	Sarajevo	13:55
KAC	672	Dubai	14:00
QTR	1078	Doha	14:05
MSR	575	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:15
FDB	057	Dubai	14:20
GFA	221	Bahrain	14:20
JZR	779	Jeddah	14:25
KAC	512	Mashhad	14:30
MSC	507	HRG	14:45
KAC	540	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:50
KAC	788	Jeddah	15:00
OMA	645	Muscat	15:10
ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:10
KNE	529	Jeddah	15:30
ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35
UAE	857	Dubai	15:45
NIA	251	Alexandria	15:50
RJA	640	Amman	16:00
SYR	1615	Damascus	16:00
FDB	051	Dubai	16:10
QTR	1072	Doha	16:15
JZR	535	Cairo	16:20
JZR	257	Beirut	16:25
JZR	787	Riyadh	16:45
KAC	680	Muscat	16:55
KAC	562	Amman	16:55

KAC	118	New York	17:00
SAW	705	Damascus	17:05
IRA	669	Mashhad	17:10
SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15
JZR	357	Mashhad	17:30
GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30
CCE	345	Sohag	17:35
JZR	177	Dubai	17:45
KAC	792	Madinah	17:45
SVA	500	Jeddah	17:55
QTR	1080	Doha	17:55
KAC	176	Geneva/Frankfurt	18:20
JZR	505	Luxor	18:25
MSR	620	Cairo	18:30
KAC	774	Riyadh	18:35
KAC	502	Beirut	18:35
KAC	786	Jeddah	18:35
IRM	1180	Mashhad	18:45
KAC	742	Dammam	18:50
CLX	856	Luxembourg	18:50
KAC	542	Cairo	18:55
KAC	618	Doha	18:55
KAC	104	London	19:00
UAE	875	Dubai	19:05
GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05
FDB	063	Dubai	19:10
KAC	614	Bahrain	19:10
ABY	123	Sharjah	19:15
JAV	621	Amman	19:25
JAI	572	Mumbai	19:35
KAC	674	Dubai	19:45
FDB	059	Dubai	19:50
DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:05
ABY	121	Sharjah	20:10
KNE	231	Riyadh	20:10
MEA	402	Beirut	20:15
OMA	647	Muscat	20:20
JZR	189	Dubai	20:25
MSR	618	Alexandria	20:30
QTR	1088	Doha	20:35
FDB	5053	Dubai	20:55
KAC	174	Munich	20:55
ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:05
UAE	859	Dubai	21:15
ALK	229	Colombo	21:20
KLM	415	Amsterdam	21:25
THY	764	Istanbul	21:30
KAC	676	Dubai	21:35
FDB	8053	Dubai	21:40
QTR	1082	Doha	21:55
GFA	219	Bahrain	22:00
KAC	564	Amman	22:05
ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:10
NIA	151	Cairo	22:10
JZR	125	Bahrain	22:15
AIC	987	Chennai/Hyderabad	22:25
JZR	185	Dubai	22:55
JAI	574	Mumbai	23:05
MSR	614	Cairo	23:30
JZR	513	Sharm el-Sheikh	23:30
FDB	071	Dubai	23:35
JAD	301	Amman	23:45

Departure Flights on Saturday 17/9/2016

Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
AIC	976	Goa/Chennai	00:05
BBC	044	Dhaka	00:10
JAI	573	Mumbai	00:10
JZR	1540	Cairo	00:20
MSR	615	Cairo	00:30
FDB	072	Dubai	00:30
JZR	562	Sohag	00:30
PIA	240	Sialkot	00:40
KLM	413	Amsterdam	01:05
MSC	416	Sohag	01:05
JZR	502	Luxor	01:15
JZR	556	Alexandria	01:30
FEG	952	Alexandria	01:35
THY	773	Istanbul	01:40
DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:00
CLX	852	Sharjah	02:05
SAI	442	Lahore	02:30
PGT	859	Istanbul	02:40
ETH	621	Addis Ababa	02:45
THY	765	Istanbul	02:45
KKK	6505	Istanbul	02:55
UAE	854	Dubai	03:45
OMA	644	Muscat	03:50
RJA	645	Amman	03:55
JZR	1334	Al Najaf	04:00
MSC	502	Alexandria	04:00
FDB	068	Dubai	04:05
ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10
MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
PGT	861	Istanbul	04:30
QTR	1077	Doha	04:35
AVV	654	Sohag	05:30
THY	1465	Istanbul	06:00
FEG	934	Sohag	06:00
RJA	643	Amman	06:25
QTR	1087	Doha	06:30
THY	3921	Istanbul	06:40
UAE	2572	Dubai	06:45
THY	771	Istanbul	06:45
GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
JZR	240	Amman	06:55
SYR	342	Damascus	07:00
FDB	070	Dubai	07:05
JZR	164	Dubai	07:15
JZR	324	Al Najaf	07:55
JZR	1140	Dammam	07:55
FDB	5062	Dubai	07:55
BAW	156	London	08:25
FDB	054	Dubai	08:30
KAC	173	Munich	08:35
KAC	511	Mashhad	08:40
KAC	539	Sharm el-Sheikh	08:50
JZR	778	Jeddah	08:50
SVA	513	Riyadh	08:50

JZR	256	Beirut	09:05
KAC	671	Dubai	09:15
KAC	787	Jeddah	09:30
JZR	534	Cairo	09:30
ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45
UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
KAC	101	London/New York	10:00
ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:05
RJA	649	Amman	10:15
QTR	1071	Doha	10:35
FDB	056	Dubai	10:40
SAW	704	Damascus	10:45
FBA	834	Al Najaf	10:50
KAC	501	Beirut	11:00
CCE	346	Sohag	11:10
KAC	561	Amman	11:20
KAC	679	Muscat	11:25
KAC	165	Rome/Paris	11:25
GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35
JZR	356	Mashhad	11:40
KAC	541	Cairo	12:05
UAE	874	Dubai	12:10
RBG	554	Alexandria	12:10
ABY	120	Sharjah	12:15
JZR	504	Luxor	12:15
IRM	1189	Mashhad	12:20
IRC	6512	ABD	12:40
FDK	802	Damascus	12:45
IAW	158	Al Najaf	12:55
KAC	791	Madinah	13:00
KAC	785	Jeddah	13:00
AVV	652	Alexandria	13:05
JZR	176	Dubai	13:10
FDB	076	Dubai	13:10
JZR	786	Riyadh	13:20
MSC	402	Alexandria	13:30
RJD	133	Abu Dhabi	13:50
FEG	932	Alexandria	13:55
MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
THY	767	Istanbul	14:10
UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
IRC	527	Mashhad	14:35
TBM	6314	Mashhad	14:40
PAL	669	Dubai/Manila	14:45
KAC	773	Riyadh	15:00
MSR	576	Sharm el-Sheikh	15:00
KAC	673	Dubai	15:05
GFA	222	Bahrain	15:05
FDB	058	Dubai	15:05
KAC	617	Doha	15:15
QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
KAC	741	Dammam	15:30
MSC	508	HRG	15:45
JZR	188	Dubai	15:50
KAC	613	Bahrain	16:00
BON	102	Sarajevo	16:05
OMA	646	Muscat	16:10
ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
KNE	530	Jeddah	16:20
ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
KAC	563	Amman	16:30
NIA	252	Alexandria	16:50
SYR	1616	Damascus	16:55
RJA	641	Amman	16:55
KAC	675	Dubai	17:00
FDB	052	Dubai	17:00
JZR	266	Beirut	17:10
JZR	512	Sharm el-Sheikh	17:15
QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
IRA	666	Esfahan	18:10
SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
SAW	706	Damascus	18:20
GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
JZR	184	Dubai	18:20
JZR	538	Cairo	18:30
CCE	342	Alexandria	18:35
KAC	1801	Cairo	18:55
QTR	1081	Doha	19:05
JZR	238	Amman	19:15
JZR	124	Bahrain	19:20
SVA	505	Jeddah	19:25
MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
KAC	285	Dhaka	19:40
GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
KAC	361	Colombo	19:55
ABY	124	Sharjah	19:55
IRM	1181	Mashhad	

Word Search Puzzles

Old West 1

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 25 letters spell a George Eliot quotation.

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

- BANKER
- BARKEEP
- BILLY THE KID
- BOOT HILL
- BRAND
- CAMPFIRE
- CATTLE DRIVE
- CHAPARRAL
- COAL
- CORRAL
- COWBOY
- DOC HOLLIDAY
- FARRIER
- FORT
- FURS
- GOLD MINE
- GOLD PANNING
- GRAZE
- HURED GUN
- HOGS
- HOMESTEAD
- HOTEL
- JUDGE
- LARIAT
- LAWMAN
- LIVESTOCK
- MINER
- OUTLAW GANG
- PISTOL
- PLOW HORSE
- POSSE
- RAILROAD
- RANCH
- RATTLESLAKE
- RIFLE
- SADDLE
- SALOON
- SHERIFF
- SHOPKEEPER
- SITTING BULL
- STAGECOACH
- TELEGRAPH
- TRACKER
- TRAIL
- TRAIN
- UNDERTAKER
- WATER TANK
- WELL

Yesterday's Solution

Nursing Home 1

W R E D E S D E B W S H L E Y R E W O H S A L
 L E N E S O U N D S A I R R U E S A C S S G V T E
 R A K E A S A S I N S A N D E S A C O N G R O M
 S I D N W C E O A N P E N D I S N Z I M A U E L
 L I L T N R S B E C O U L D E G S L I N M R H
 L N E I M E E V A N N A O R I A R E E S E O U G D
 A G O W A Z E V A L I E M L E T E R P O N S
 F R M H G I O I G X Y O I M V E N Y D I O R I
 S O O E A R L L E I N E P I R I L G R E D E
 N M O R L I T L L S A I E I T P L E S U M N N A E I U H
 E O G C N S A I E I T P L E S U M N N A E I U H
 D R N H E I C P S C T I U V E B U C A L A R I S
 L E T N I S M O I P R T H P P S I L A B A M R I N S
 D A I R C P E R N E L C R A N L I B H T E A U
 O B D A E S M S P S E R U T N E D O A S B L R
 C M N I S T 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 I E R M U S T O L S
 O C L L I P G N T P E E L S S G N T I U O S F
 R A N S E M A G D R A O B Y P E I 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
- ASPIRIN
- BATHROOM
- BEDRAIL
- BEDS
- BOARD GAMES
- BULLETIN BOARD
- CANE
- 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
- SCRUBS
- SENIORS
- SHAVE
- SHOWER
- SING ALONG
- SLEEPING PILL
- STAFF MEETINGS
- SUPPER
- TABLES
- TELEVISION
- TRANSFER BELT
- URINAL
- VOLUNTEERS
- WANDERING
- WHEELCHAIR

The hidden message is:
 WE SHALL NEVER KNOW ALL THE GOOD THAT A SIMPLE SMILE CAN DO

Daily SuDoku

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

medium

CROSSWORD 1373

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15			16									17	
18			19			20			21				
22					23			24			25		
		26					27			28			
29	30				31		32			33			
34		35			36					37	38	39	40
41				42			43			44			
45							46		47		48		
49			50		51				52		53		
54							55	56			57		
				58	59	60		61	62	63			
64	65		66	67					68		69	70	71
72		73					74	75	76			77	
78						79	80					81	
82						83							84

ACROSS

1. A legal document codifying the result of deliberations of a committee or society or legislative body.
4. A hypothetical continent that (according to plate tectonic theory) broke up later into North America and Europe and Asia.
12. A female person who has the same parents as another person.
15. Any thick messy substance.
16. Of or relating to or in the manner of the playwright Henrik Ibsen.
17. Standard time in the 6th time zone west of Greenwich, reckoned at the 90th meridian.
18. Blatant or sensational promotion.
20. A heavy odorless colorless gas formed during respiration and by the decomposition of organic substances.
21. A cooler darker spot appearing periodically on the surface of the sun.
22. Transient cessation of respiration.
23. (Sumerian and Babylonian) A solar deity.
25. A flexible container with a single opening.
26. United States writer (born in Poland) who wrote in Yiddish (1880-1957).
27. A light strong gray lustrous corrosion-resistant metallic element used in strong light-weight alloys (as for airplane parts).
29. 1/10 gram.
34. Beside one another in a row or rank.
37. West Indian evergreen with medium to long leaves.
41. Shockingly repellent.
43. A heavy brittle diamagnetic trivalent metallic element (resembles arsenic and antimony chemically).
44. A territory in southwestern Germany formerly ruled by the counts palatine.
45. Any of various primates with short tails or no tail at all.
46. (used of count nouns) Every one considered individually.
48. An engineering university in Cambridge.
49. A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
52. Title used for a married Frenchwoman.
54. A historical region of southwestern India on the west coast.
55. The syllable naming the fourth (subdominant) note of the diatonic scale in solmization.
57. One thousandth of a second.
58. A member of a Mayan people of southwestern Guatemala.
61. Used as a Hindi courtesy title.
64. A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.

66. Inability to coordinate voluntary muscle movements.
68. Talks a great deal about uninteresting topics.
72. Away from the mouth or oral region.
74. Hungarian choreographer who developed Labanotation (1879-1958).
77. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
78. The basic unit of money in Albania.
79. Elder brother of Krishna.
81. A large vase that usually has a pedestal or feet.
82. A federal agency established to regulate the release of new foods and health-related products.
83. Of or relating to inertia.
84. An informal term for a father.

DOWN

1. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
2. A farm building for housing poultry.
3. Formerly included in genus Cedrela.
4. Of a pale purple color.
5. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
6. North American republic containing 50 states - 48 conterminous states in North America plus Alaska in northwest North America and the Hawaiian Islands in the Pacific Ocean.
7. An account describing incidents or events.
8. Sweet pulpy tropical fruit with thick scaly rind and shiny black seeds.
9. A complete metric system of units of measurement for scientists.
10. (prosody) Of or consisting of iambs.
11. (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.
12. A device (trade name Aqua-Lung) that lets divers breathe under water.
13. Muslims collectively and their civilization.
14. Any distinct time period in a sequence of events.
19. 100 pesewas equal 1 cedi.
24. A republic in southern Europe on the Italian Peninsula.
28. Lacking or deprive of the sense of hearing wholly or in part.
30. Italian brandy made from residue of grapes after pressing.
31. Fragrant resin obtain from trees of the family Burseraceae and used as incense.
32. Not very intelligent or interested in culture.
33. Any of the threadlike filaments forming the mycelium of a fungus.
35. A large body of water constituting a principal part of the hydrosphere.
36. A trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.
38. Any of several plants of the genus Camassia.
39. The weather in some location averaged over some long period of time.
40. A member of the Nahuatl people who established an empire in Mexico that was overthrown by Cortes in 1519.
42. A coffin along with its stand.
47. A metric unit of length equal to one hundredth of a meter.
50. Measuring instrument in which the echo of a pulse of microwave radiation is used to detect and locate distant objects.
51. The ninth month of the Moslem calendar.
53. A doctor's degree in music.
56. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
59. An edge tool with a heavy bladed head mounted across a handle.
60. (trademark) A thin polyester film.
62. Small terrestrial lizard of warm regions of the Old World.
63. Obvious and dull.
65. In bed.
67. A sock with a separation for the big toe.
69. (computer science) A data transmission rate (bits/second) for modems.
70. A city in northern India.
71. Port city in northwestern Belgium and industrial center.
73. A Turkish unit of weight equal to about 2.75 pounds.
75. The products of human creativity.
76. The Tibeto-Burman language spoken in the Dali region of Yunnan.
80. A chronic inflammatory collagen disease affecting connective tissue (skin or joints).

Yesterday's Solution

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

hard

Yesterday's Solution

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

CUBS CLINCH NL CENTRAL TITLE WITH ST LOUIS LOSS

CHICAGO: The Chicago Cubs won the NL Central, becoming the first major league team this season to clinch a division title when St Louis lost 6-2 at San Francisco. The Cubs lost 5-4 to the Milwaukee Brewers earlier Thursday night, but captured their first NL Central crown since 2008 when the Giants finished off their victory over the Cardinals. Wrigley Field was empty when Matt Adams made the final out on the West Coast, yet a loud cheer went up in the neighborhood around the iconic ballpark and several people honked their car horns. Chicago (93-53) wasted its opportunity to clinch on its own when pinch-hitter Scooter Gennett delivered a tiebreaking, two-run double in the seventh inning for Milwaukee. Keon Broxton homered and Orlando Arcia drove in two runs for the Brewers. Jorge Soler hit a two-run homer for the Cubs. Justin Grimm (1-1) took the loss. Jimmy Nelson (8-14) won for the second time in his last 11 starts. Tyler Thornburg got four outs for his 10th save.

GIANTS 6, CARDINALS 2

Fist-pumping Johnny Cueto pitched a five-hitter and retired his final 17 batters as San Francisco gained ground in the playoff race with a victory over St Louis. Hunter Pence hit a two-run homer, Cueto (16-5) had a go-ahead sacrifice fly and Angel Pagan followed with an RBI single. Denard Span added a two-run single. The Giants gained a game on the NL West-leading Los Angeles Dodgers, who are ahead by four after losing at Arizona. San Francisco also moved a game in front of the idle New York Mets and two up on the Cardinals in the chase for the two NL wild cards. Cueto struck out seven and walked one in his fifth complete game, tying Chris Sale of the White Sox for most in the majors. Cueto threw 105 pitches and beat Adam Wainwright (11-9) a day after the Giants were swept by San Diego in a lackluster three-game series.

RED SOX 7, YANKEES 5

Hanley Ramirez hit a three-run homer with two outs in the ninth inning to finish off a five-run rally as Boston came back to beat New York and open a two-game lead in the AL East. New York took a four-run lead after three innings and still led 5-1 before David Ortiz hit a solo shot in the eighth. It was the 537th home run of his career, passing Yankees Hall of Famer Mickey Mantle for 17th on baseball's all-time list. Ortiz also had an RBI single off Dellin Betances (3-6) in the ninth. There were still two on and two outs when Ramirez worked a 3-1 count and sent the next pitch to straightaway center field. The victory in the opener of a four-game series against its archrival snapped Boston's two-game skid. Starlin Castro had four hits and new addition Billy Butler drove in two runs in his debut for the Yankees, who have lost four of five. Joe Kelly (3-0) pitched into and out of a bases-loaded, one-out jam in the top of the ninth.

RAYS 7, ORIOLES 6

Evan Longoria homered and drove in five runs, and last-place Tampa Bay again played spoiler in a victory over Baltimore. The loss dropped the Orioles two games behind AL East-leading Boston and into a tie with Toronto atop the wild-card race. Tampa Bay has won three straight, including the last two of a three-game series in Toronto. The Rays also defeated the wild card-contending Yankees on Sunday. Longoria hit his career high-tying 33rd homer off Yovani Gallardo (5-8) with two on in the first inning and added a two-run single in the fourth to increase his team-high RBI total to 91. Alex Colome worked the ninth for his 33rd save. After the Orioles put runners at first and third with one out, he fanned major league home run leader Mark Trumbo and slugger Chris Davis. Baltimore went 3 for 15 with runners in scoring position. Brad Boxberger (4-1) got two outs for the win.

BLUE JAYS 7, ANGELS 2

Josh Donaldson went 3 for 3 with two doubles and scored two runs in his return to the lineup, Russell Martin hit a three-run homer and Toronto beat Los Angeles. The Blue Jays remained two games behind first-place Boston in the AL East. They are tied with Baltimore atop the wild-card standings. JA Happ (19-4) took a shutout into the seventh inning and earned his 13th win in his last 17 starts. Donaldson, last year's AL MVP, missed a three-game series against the Rays this week with a sore right hip. In his fourth big league appearance, Daniel Wright (0-3) gave up two runs before exiting in the sixth. Andrelton Simmons hit a two-run homer to chase Happ.

DIAMONDBACKS 7, DODGERS 3

Mitch Haniger hit a three-run homer in a five-run sixth inning, and Arizona beat the NL West-leading Los Angeles Dodgers. Archie Bradley (7-9) struck out seven in six-plus innings and got plenty of run support as the Diamondbacks won their fourth straight and handed starter Rich Hill (3-1) his first loss with the Dodgers. Los Angeles' division lead was trimmed to four games when second-place San Francisco beat St Louis. Hill and Bradley shouted at each other after Hill bunted an inside pitch in the fifth. Both

nine scored in 3 1/3 innings. The Royals have lost eight of their past nine home games.

PIRATES 15, PHILLIES 2

Andrew McCutchen hit two solo homers, Chad Kuhl pitched six effective innings and Pittsburgh beat Philadelphia. Jordy Mercer hit a three-run homer, and John Jaso and Sean Rodriguez also went deep to help the Pirates split a four-game series. Kuhl (4-3) allowed two runs and four hits, striking out five. He retired the first 12 batters



CHICAGO: Chicago Cubs' Jorge Soler watches his two-run home run during the second inning of a baseball game against the Milwaukee Brewers. — AP

dugouts and bullpens emptied, but that was the extent of it. Hill, who was 9-3 with Oakland before being traded to Los Angeles on Aug 1, allowed a run for the first time with the Dodgers when Kyle Jensen homered in the second. That ended Hill's streak of 20 consecutive scoreless innings with Los Angeles. In his previous outing, Hill had a perfect game for seven innings against Miami last Saturday before being lifted because of concerns about a recurring blister. Brandon Drury set a Diamondbacks rookie record with an RBI in his seventh straight game. Patrick Corbin got his first save by pitching three scoreless innings.

ATHLETICS 14, ROYALS 5

Stephen Vogt homered and drove in five runs, Ryon Healy hit a mammoth three-run shot and Oakland routed Kansas City. The Athletics put a huge dent in the Royals' diminishing playoff chances, sweeping a four-game road series at Kansas City for the first time. The A's outscored the Royals 43-12, the largest Oakland run differential in a four-game series in franchise history. Healy, who had three hits, sent his titanic drive an estimated 480 feet and it landed above the left-field fountains. He went 9 for 17 (.529) with two doubles, two home runs and seven RBIs in the series. Joey Wendle had his first career four-hit game and scored three runs as the A's banged out 16 hits. Marcus Semien added his 25th homer, a three-run shot. Rookie right-hander Daniel Mengden (2-7) held the Royals to three hits over seven scoreless innings. Kansas City starter Edinson Volquez (10-11) faced 22 batters and

before Tommy Joseph lined a double in the fifth. Jerad Eickhoff (10-14) gave up six runs - three earned - and five hits (four homers) in 6 2/3 innings.

TWINS 5, TIGERS 1

Brian Dozier's two-run single highlighted a four-run second inning, and Minnesota handed Detroit a crucial loss. The Tigers split four games with lowly Minnesota, hurting them in the crowded AL wild-card race. Detroit came into the series with a 10-2 record against the Twins. Hector Santiago (12-8) got the win, holding the Tigers to one run in 5 2/3 innings. Mike Pelfrey (4-10) lost in his first major league appearance since July 31. He started the game with a 60-pitch limit but lasted only 36, giving up four runs and five hits in 1 2/3 innings.

WHITE SOX 2, INDIANS 1

Jose Abreu extended his hitting tear with a home run and a single, and Carlos Sanchez singled home the winning run in the ninth inning to lift Chicago over Cleveland. The White Sox took three of four games in the series to conclude a 6-4 homestand against three playoff hopefuls. The first-place Indians remained six games ahead of Detroit in the AL Central. David Robertson (5-3) pitched a scoreless inning for the win. Chicago starter James Shields gave up one run and three hits in six innings but remained winless in his last nine starts. He was 0-5 with a 10.75 ERA in his previous eight appearances. Bryan Shaw (2-5) took the loss. — AP



Haseeb Hameed

TEENAGER HAMEED GETS ENGLAND CALL FOR B'DESH

NOTTINGHAM: Teenage opener Haseeb Hameed was included in the England Test squad announced yesterday for the tour of Bangladesh. The uncapped 19-year-old Lancashire star was selected after a successful season for the Red Rose county and following the decision of current England opener Alex Hales to rule himself out of the tour on security grounds.

"Haseeb Hameed, for someone so young, has had an impressive season in the County Championship with Lancashire," said England national selector James Whitaker. "He has been a consistent performer and his four centuries, against some of the best bowling attacks in the country are testament to his outstanding temperament and attitude." Yorkshire batsman Joe Root, an England mainstay in all three international formats, will be rested for the three one-day internationals, which begin on October 7, before joining the Test squad. Ben Duckett, another uncapped batsman, has also been included following a prolific season.

'Special Duckett'

Former England batsman Whitaker added: "Throughout the campaign, he has scored heavily for Northamptonshire in first-class cricket including two double hundreds. "His 220 not out for the England Lions in a 50-over game against Sri Lanka A earlier this summer was very

special." Meanwhile Surrey captain Gareth Batty, whose last Test match came in 2005, has been recalled at the age of 38, together with fellow Surrey spinner Zafar Ansari. The pair's selection alongside Moeen Ali and Adil Rashid, means England will have a quartet of slow bowlers to chose from on pitches expected to aid spinners.

"Zafar has great potential both with bat and ball and Gareth's experience as one of the country's best slow bowlers and his ability to be effective in subcontinent conditions will be beneficial this winter," said Whitaker. Alastair Cook, England's Test captain, is set to travel to Bangladesh a week ahead of the Test party to work on his skills before returning home for the birth of his second child. The left-handed opener will miss the two two-day warm-up matches, scheduled to start on October 14 and October 16, before returning to Bangladesh to lead the team in the first Test in Chittagong commencing on Thursday, October 20. This season saw England beat Sri Lanka in all formats but they drew a four-Test series with Pakistan 2-2 before winning the one-dayers and losing a lone Twenty20

The Bangladesh tour—which begins on September 30 and will include two Tests and three ODIs—had been called into question after an attack on a cafe in Dhaka in July which saw 20 hostages killed, including 18 foreigners. Following the attack, the England and Wales Cricket

Board (ECB) sent a fact-finding delegation to Bangladesh led by Reg Dickason, their security officer.

Dickason said it was safe to tour but that was not enough to persuade Hales and England one-day captain Eoin Morgan to travel to Bangladesh.

Test squad:

Alastair Cook (Essex, capt), Moeen Ali (Worcestershire), James Anderson (Lancashire), Zafar Ansari (Surrey), Jonny Bairstow (Yorkshire, wkt), Gary Ballance (Yorkshire), Gareth Batty (Surrey), Stuart Broad (Nottinghamshire), Jos Buttler (Lancashire, wkt), Ben Duckett (Northamptonshire), Steven Finn (Middlesex), Haseeb Hameed (Lancashire), Adil Rashid (Yorkshire), Joe Root (Yorkshire), Ben Stokes (Durham), Chris Woakes (Warwickshire), Mark Wood (Durham)

One-Day squad:

Jos Buttler (Lancashire, capt, wkt), Moeen Ali (Worcestershire), Jonny Bairstow (Yorkshire), Jake Ball (Nottinghamshire), Sam Billings (Kent), Liam Dawson (Hampshire), Ben Duckett (Northamptonshire), Liam Plunkett (Yorkshire), Adil Rashid (Yorkshire), Jason Roy (Surrey), Ben Stokes (Durham), James Vince (Hampshire), David Willey (Yorkshire), Chris Woakes (Warwickshire), Mark Wood (Durham). —AFP

30 STITCHES FOR STARC AFTER TRAINING MISHAP

SYDNEY: Australia's leading fast bowler Mitchell Starc was in hospital yesterday following surgery on a leg wound which required 30 stitches. Starc, 26, suffered deep lacerations after colliding with training equipment on Thursday, Cricket Australia said. Left-arter Starc, who was rested from Australia's tour of South Africa later this month, is expected to have his left shin in a brace for up to three weeks to aid his recovery.

"There were no bone fractures or tendon damage to his leg and he underwent surgery to clean the wound and received approximately 30 stitches," Cricket Australia Chief

Medical Officer John Orchard said. "He will remain in hospital for the next few days to minimise movement to his leg and will use an extension brace for the next two to three weeks until his stitches are removed. "At this stage, barring any complications, we are hopeful he is on track to play at the start of the Australian summer." Australia will play South Africa in the first of a three-Test series, starting in Perth on November 3. Starc, who had ankle surgery earlier this year, was Australia's top performer with 24 wickets at 15.16 in the losing three-Test series in Sri Lanka last month. —AFP

MORGAN SET TO CAPTAIN ENGLAND IN INDIA ODIs

NOTTINGHAM: England selection chief James Whitaker expects Eoin Morgan to lead the one-day side in India even though he has opted out of the upcoming tour of Bangladesh on security grounds. Morgan, England's one-day international captain, and Alex Hales, who opened in both Test and limited overs cricket this season, informed the selectors before yesterday's squad announcement they would not be touring Bangladesh.

Former Ireland batsman Morgan has won plaudits for overseeing an England revival in 50-over cricket following their embarrassing first-round exit at last year's World Cup. "Eoin has done exceptionally well as captain," national selector Whitaker told reporters at Trent Bridge after announcing the squads for the Bangladesh tour. "Over the last couple of years he's established a really good leadership base. He's done a marvelous job. "It's slightly disappointing that he's turned this opportunity down, but we expect him to be captain in India."

Whitaker, a former England batsman, added: "At the same time, we'll review as we do after every series. And all I'll say is, I expect him to be captain in India." The tour, which begins on September 30 and will include two Tests and three ODIs, had been called into question after an attack on a cafe in Dhaka in July which saw 20 hostages killed, including 18 foreigners.

However, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) gave the tour the go-ahead after an inspection visit to Bangladesh led by team security Chief Reg Dickason. Michael Vaughan, a former England captain, was scathing about Morgan's decision not to travel to Bangladesh. "Morgan has made a huge mistake," Vaughan wrote in his Daily Telegraph column on Monday. "You tell (your team) to be strong so they can go the extra yard. "I do not see how he can look them in the eye and ask them to do that in the future."

But Jos Buttler, who earlier this week was appointed to lead the one-day side in Bangladesh, said he regarded himself as a stand-in skipper and that he expected Morgan to regain the captaincy for England's three ODIs and three Twenty20s in India in January and February. "He's very much still the captain of the England ODI side," said Buttler of Morgan on Monday. "He's done a fantastic job over the last 18 months. "He's been one of the main reasons, if not the main reason, for the turnaround in fortunes," the dynamic 26-year-old Lancashire wicket-keeper/batsman insisted. —AFP



NEW DELHI: New Zealand's cricket captain Kane Williamson watches teammates during a training session at Feroz Shah Kotla cricket stadium. —AFP

WILLIAMSON FINDS FORM IN INDIA TOUR OPENER

NEW DELHI: Half-centuries from skipper Kane Williamson and Tom Latham fired New Zealanders to 324 for seven declared on the opening day of the three-day practice match against Mumbai yesterday. The Black Caps, invited to bat first at the Feroz Shah Kotla stadium in New Delhi, rode on a 85-run second-wicket partnership between Latham, who retired after scoring 55, and Williamson to put up a challenging score.

The Aditya Tare-led Mumbai were 29 for one at stumps, trailing the visitors by 295 runs in the first innings. New Zealand's pace spearhead Trent Boult claimed the only wicket of opener Jay Bista, who was caught behind for nought. Kaustubh Pawar on five and Armaan Jaffer on 24 were at the crease. However the day belonged to the New Zealand batsmen, who scored at more than four runs an over against a Mumbai attack that used nine of their bowling options. Ross Taylor, who made 41, and Mitchell Santner, whose 45 came off 59 deliveries, also made significant contributions. The two sides have 15 members each, with only 11 allowed to bat and field in the only warm-up tie before the three-match Test series starting September 22 in Kanpur. —AFP

VERSTAPPEN LEADS RED BULL ONE-TWO IN FIRST PRACTICE

SINGAPORE: Max Verstappen and Daniel Ricciardo achieved a Red Bull one-two in the first free practice session yesterday as Mercedes again struggled to match the pace of their nearest rivals at the Singapore Grand Prix. Dutchman Verstappen, 18, lapped the Marina Bay Street Circuit in one minute 45.823 seconds to edge out his Australian team mate by 0.049 seconds. Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel was next fastest, 0.464 off the pace.

As was the case a year ago when Vettel stormed to victory, the superior power of the Mercedes appears to have been negated by the high downforce and slow nature of the Singapore track as Lewis Hamilton and Nico Rosberg could only finish fourth and fifth respectively. Championship leader Hamilton was 0.603 seconds behind Verstappen.

Practice for Rosberg ended prematurely when he damaged his front wing after crashing late in the 90-minute session.

The Mercedes duo set their fastest times on the more durable soft compound tyres, however, with the top three all going quicker on ultrasofts. The session started in the twilight as the cars went out for their first stints at the end of a sweltering day but McLaren's Jenson Button ground to a halt towards the end of his installation lap, bringing out the virtual safety car. "Yes, it's stopped," the Briton lamented over the team radio. "I'm not going to make it back to the pits."

All the other cars returned to the pits as the Briton was pushed a few hundred meters to his garage by marshals and crew members. Mercedes

were first out after Button pitted and Hamilton's car was fitted with a 'halo' for the first time as Formula One continues to experiment with the driver cockpit safety device. Verstappen, already earning a reputation as an aggressive driver, brushed the wall early but when he avoided all the street furniture on his next lap, he leapfrogged Hamilton at the top of the timesheets.

After a mid-session lull when all the cars returned to the pits to hand back their first set of tyres, Rosberg soon had the track to himself and immediately took almost a second off Verstappen's early time. The Red Bulls then went out on new sets of ultrasofts to dominate the remainder of the session, with Vettel also going quicker than Mercedes on his final stint. — Reuters

BREES, MANNING RELATION FLAVOR SAINTS-GIANTS CLASH

NEW ORLEANS: When New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees and New York Giants counterpart Eli Manning are playing in the same game it is personal, albeit in a friendly way. The backdrop of various personal connections they share gives their NFL matchup on Sunday in East Rutherford, New Jersey, even more flavor than the typical showdown of elite passers.

The Brees and Manning families have grown close since Brees arrived in New Orleans a little more than a decade ago and began raising a family in the same historic "Uptown" neighborhood where Saints great Archie Manning raised his three sons, and still lives. Brees' three young boys and some of Archie's grandchildren now go to the same school, which feeds into the same high school where Peyton and Eli Manning once played quarterback. Brees said his older boys have even expressed a cheering interest in Eli Manning, as well as another Giant and fellow former Newman High School receiver Odell Beckham, Jr. "I basically said, as long as you're rooting for us to win, I don't care who you root for personally," Brees said this week, recounting a talk with his children about this week's game. Archie Manning recalled hearing about the Brees boys' affinity for Eli, and he could relate. "That was funny," Archie Manning said. "You know, 100 years ago I had the same thing happen. Someone asked (Archie's oldest son) Cooper who his favorite quarterback was, and he said Roger Staubach," who starred for the Dallas Cowboys while the elder Manning played for the Saints. Brees said when Peyton Manning retired, he got a text from Archie that the Saints were now his second favorite team - up from third - now that he has only one son left playing in the NFL. Archie Manning said when he runs into Brees, the Saints quarterback inevitably asks how Eli's daughters are doing.

Far-fetched

Meanwhile, Eli Manning's mother, Olivia, and Brees' wife, Brittany, have also become friends and socialize regularly. At this point, it wouldn't be far-fetched to predict that Brees and Eli Manning will one day run into each other in the stands at a Newman football game. But this Sunday, they'll be on opposite sidelines, trying to outdo one another, and assuming success on that front will require a prolific outing. "You have to expect that they're going to be able to score," Eli Manning said of Brees and the Saints. "He's put up (nearly) 40-some odd points last week. A bunch of times when we've played them, it's been high-scoring. We have to know that offensively and do our part." With their busy professional and family schedules, Brees and Eli Manning don't see each other too often - perhaps once or twice a year, Brees said. It's usually when their teams play one another or at Pro Bowls.

Still, Archie Manning said it's clear his youngest son and Brees admire and appreciate one another on personal and professional levels. "There's mutual respect there," Archie Manning said. "Everybody respects Drew as a quarterback and a person." Brees turned pro in 2001, Manning in 2004. Both are seasoned veterans and not just former Super Bowl winners, but also Super Bowl MVPs. Brees has thrown for 61,326 yards and 432 touchdowns, Manning for 44,394 yards and 297 TDs. —AP



SINGAPORE: Sahara Force India F1 Team's Mexican driver Sergio Perez takes a corner during the first free practice session of the Formula One Singapore Grand Prix. —AFP

PEREZ ON BRINK OF F1 DEAL FOR 2017

SINGAPORE: Mexican driver Sergio Perez expects to announce his 2017 Formula One plans before the month is out, with a new contract at his Force India team the likely scenario. Perez had been ready to announce a deal at the Singapore Grand Prix this week, but contractual details were not finalized.

"We got some delays, but I really hope that before the next race we can definitely announce where I'll be racing," Perez said. "I'll always say I'll be very happy if I can stay, if everything is fine for me to stay where I am." His strong performances this season - he leads teammate Nico Hulkenberg by 16 points and has led Force India's

challenge for fourth in the constructors' championship - fostered interest from rival teams, but Perez is bullish about his team's prospects under the new F1 design regulations in 2017.

"When we had the massive regulation change for 2014, on my third race I was on the podium for the team, so it shows that Force India is capable of adapting well to new regulations," Perez said. "Hopefully next year, we can do another step forward, which is going to be very tough. Now you're fighting Ferrari, Red Bull, Mercedes, so it's going to be very tough but I fully believe in the team."

Less certain about their futures are

Renault drivers Kevin Magnussen and Jolyon Palmer, who have received no indication from the team whether they will be contracted next season. "I don't know what's going on behind the scenes," Magnussen said. "I've read in the press that there's been a delay and the decision could take a long time. "I was hoping for a decision between these two races, but clearly it hasn't come and things are taking longer than I hoped for." Palmer was also in the dark about his future. "I'll know when I know," Palmer said. "I know I'm in the mix but we'll just see how things pan out. "Every race from now on is a chance to show what I can do." —AP



RIO DE JANEIRO: Hong Kong's Chui Yee Yu (L) competes with Hungary's Amarilla Veres during the women's epee team semifinal in the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games at the Olympic Park. —AFP

PARALYMPIC FENCERS: GROUP OF LETHAL WHEELCHAIR 'WARRIORS'

RIO DE JANEIRO: The Paralympic wheelchair fencers enter the arena to the strains of the James Bond theme tune, but even 007 probably couldn't duel while stuck in a chair. Many skillful athletes are overcoming a lot of disabilities at the Rio Games. However, fencers have a unique edge. "It's one of the only combat sports you can do in a wheelchair," 43-year-old Pierre Mainville, who reached the quarter-finals with the sabre, said on Thursday.

The Canadian took up wheelchair fencing 15 years ago after a policeman bent on killing an ex-girlfriend fired repeatedly into the car carrying her and three others, including Mainville. He was hit six times and left a paraplegic. If a modern weapon almost took his life, the ancient sword helped him win it back. "When you put on that mask, you become a warrior," he said. Combatants must remain seated in wheelchairs attached to the floor, largely immobilizing their lower bodies, whether the athletes' legs are paralyzed or not. Free from the waist up, the fencers engage in furious duels, lunging, parrying and leaning back to escape. The clink and scraping of steel blade against blade fills the air, inter-

rupted by occasional cries of victory or disappointment. "It's like chess," Mainville says. "Only very fast."

First blood

The fighters resemble something between aliens, ninjas and Medieval knights. They wear dark masked helmets and white suits wired to register an opponent's hit. Blankets closing off the area from the waist to the feet are worn like flowing skirts. The white clothing dates from the days of aristocrats in duels, Mainville says. "They made rules where the first one to bleed loses. Then people tried to cheat by wearing dark clothes, so they said from now on everyone must wear white."

Like Mainville, Brazilian swordsman Fabio Luiz Damasceno, 33, was paralyzed from the waist down in a shooting. He described the incident as occurring "in a street fight." And he's not the only other shooting victim turned fencer in Rio. Damasceno's teammate Jovane Guissone was shot during a robbery in 2004 and lost control of his legs. He took up wheelchair fencing four years later and won gold in the 2012 London Paralympics. Damasceno says he discovered wheelchair fencing—a sport that has

been in the Paralympics since 1960 but only recently arrived in Brazil—by "pure chance." And it wasn't easy to learn the skills needed to wield his weapons of choice, the epee and foil. "You're working at very close range, so you have to attack quickly and get out of the way quickly," he says. "There's a lot of training. You have to repeat things 10,000 times to do them well."

Damasceno points out an important complication that onlookers might not even notice. Although all the competitors are all strapped into their chairs and divided into one of three groups of disability, the variations in physical condition, and therefore mobility, can still be huge. Damasceno has legs but they won't respond, while a double-amputee opponent may retain use of his thighs, giving him an extra bit of agility and strength in his upper body. Ultimately, the contest is just an old fashioned sword fight.

"With fencing, your goal is to touch the opponent and touch first," Damasceno says. Or as Greece's Panagiotis Triantafyllou, 30 — who ended up winning silver in the sabre on Thursday—said: "It helps to have long arms and be smart." —AFP

AUTHORITIES DEPLOY ANTI-MAFIA TACTICS FOR MATCH-FIXERS

LONDON: The police tactic of turning "foot soldiers" against their bosses in organized crime gangs is having a positive impact on tackling match-fixing in sport, an expert in the field says. Alex Ingot of Sportradar, a leading company in the prevention and detection of betting-related match-fixing, said law-enforcement agencies globally were now deploying the same strategy they have used down the years for bringing to justice mafia bosses.

Ingot used the example of Wilson Raj Perumal, a Singaporean arrested and jailed in Finland in 2011 for fixing top-tier games there. He subsequently assisted match-fixing investigators and named others higher up in the scheme. "Much like historical organized crime investigations, you try and catch the people towards the bottom of the pyramid and put pressure on them," Ingot, communications director of Sportradar, told AFP on the sidelines of the Betting on Sports Conference in London.

"And hopefully like in mafia cases in the US you're subsequently trying to flip people further and further up the chain," added Ingot, who deals with clients such as UEFA and the Asian Football Confederation (AFC). Sportradar works with Europol and Australian police, for example, to share intelligence to put pressure on the sports fixing masterminds.

"The onus is not only on Sportradar with its intelligence and its reports but also the police to realize the depth of the problem and chip away at that," said Ingot, adding that Sportradar has been involved in around 25 successful prosecutions in alliance with law enforcement since 2013. Match-fixing is a natural target for organized crime because of the amount of money involved, he said. "I think because of the development of match-fixing we've seen serious organized crime taking a real interest in how they can make money out of it and that's really changed the landscape," said Ingot.

"It's no longer relatives trying to make a bit of extra money from finding out if someone's injured. This is serious, serious money, when one is talking about sports betting the turnover is trillions of dollars. It's a significant problem and unless it is tackled pretty comprehensively it will continue to undermine the credibility of sport going forward."

Building a case

Ingot revealed that sometimes federations will permit fixed matches to go ahead as a price for building a successful case against offenders in the long term. "What we have seen in certain circumstances is that because the federation wants to build a really strong case they find multiple instances of completed fixes are really critical for them to build a watertight case," said Ingot.

"Inevitably what happens if the prosecution goes through and is successful there are remedial measures to rectify the previous results. It is a priority to think more long term to make a few things happen so that we can sanction this team properly. You have to deter these clubs and to deter them you have to have successful prosecutions." Ingot says a case for having the equivalent of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) in charge of match-fixing and illegal betting does not hold mass appeal for the moment.

He cites WADA funding and conflicts of interest as examples of the challenges such a body would face. "At the moment we are talking about national initiatives and national focuses but I think it's only a matter of time before dots start getting joined up across borders and an informal international network starts coming into force," he said. "That in turn might start a real serious debate about forming that into an international structure." —AFP

STEPH CURRY HOPES FOR CHANGES TO LGBT LAW

SAN FRANCISCO: Stephen Curry said he is disappointed to see sporting events pulled from his home state of North Carolina over a law that some say can lead to discrimination against LGBT people. And the two-time NBA MVP hopes lawmakers make changes to the so-called "bathroom bill" before more major events follow the NBA's All-Star game and the NCAA men's basketball tournament out the door.

Curry, who grew up in Charlotte and played

college basketball at nearby Davidson, said Thursday he has mixed feelings about sporting events leaving the state. The NBA has pulled next year's All-Star game out of Charlotte, and the NCAA this week began the process of relocating seven championships from North Carolina, including the opening weekend of the men's basketball tournament.

The ACC followed suit and said its conference championship football game will not be

played in Charlotte. "I think it's unfortunate for our city and our state to be under the microscope with HB2 and how it's unfolded," Curry said in an interview with The Associated Press. "I'm all for equal and fair rights and treatment for everybody. Until it gets addressed, until some changes are made, this could be a recurring theme in North Carolina. I don't want that happen."

The law, signed by Republican Gov Pat

McCry earlier this year, requires transgender people to use restrooms at schools and government buildings corresponding to the sex on their birth certificates. It also excludes gender identity and sexual orientation from local and statewide antidiscrimination protections and was passed to counteract Charlotte's approval of an anti-discrimination ordinance for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people at hotels, restaurants and retailers. —AP

BANISHED BARTON SORRY FOR RANGERS ROW

GLASGOW: Colorful Rangers midfielder Joey Barton has apologized unreservedly after being banished from the Scottish Premiership club's training ground for what he called "inappropriate" comments. Barton's future with the Glasgow giants was thrown into doubt after he was sent home on Tuesday following a reported row with team-mate Andy Halliday.

Rangers manager Mark Warburton told Barton not to return until Monday and the 34-year-old will miss Saturday's Premiership contest with Ross County at Ibrox. The incident occurred days after Rangers suffered a painful 5-1 thrashing against bitter rivals Celtic in the first league Old Firm derby for four years. In a statement posted on Twitter late on

Thursday, Barton—who has a history of misdemeanours and was once jailed—said he was sorry for the comments, but insisted he only made them because he cares about the club.

"Obviously after (the) Old Firm game on Saturday everybody was hurting and in training on Tuesday there was a full and frank discussion about the result and reasons for our loss," Barton wrote. "I, like everyone else, care deeply about the task at hand, which is to restore Rangers Football Club to the top of Scottish football. "The discussion we had involved some sharp disagreement about the game and some harsh words were said. There were only words involved in the disagreement, nothing else.

Nevertheless, some of the words used did overstep the mark. "As someone who communicates directly, I accept that some of the things I said were inappropriate and for that I apologise unreservedly. "I cannot, however, apologise for caring deeply about winning and for wanting to perform better myself and for Rangers to do much better."

Barton confirmed he had been told to stay away until next week and added: "Whilst I don't feel that this was necessary I fully respect the manager's decision. "I regret what happened and on Monday I will report for training and I will do what it takes to help the team draw a line under it so that we can get back to the task at hand." —AFP

NO HARD FEELINGS OVER CITY DUMPING SAYS HART

TURIN: Torino and England goalkeeper Joe Hart said yesterday he has no hard feelings towards Pep Guardiola despite being unceremoniously forced out at Manchester City and replaced by Claudio Bravo from Barcelona. Hart, who joined City as a teenager in 2006, signed for the unfashionable Serie A club on a season-long loan deal designed to make sure he is "playing regular football again".

Hart began his Serie A career with a 2-1 defeat away at Atalanta last weekend—he was at fault for one of the goals—a far cry from the razzmatazz of the world-famous Premier League. But the 29-year-old shot-stopper, who suffered huge criticism for the 2-1 defeat to Iceland that sent England crashing out of Euro 2016, said he felt no bitterness towards new City boss Guardiola. "It was fairly obvious to everyone," Hart told media when asked about the circumstances surrounding his high-profile divorce from City. Asked if Guardiola had been honest with him, Hart said: "He was open with me."

He added: "Football's football... and it resulted in me looking for a new club and, as I said, I'm very happy to be where I am at the moment. "I absolutely love to play football and it looked like my options were limited (at City). It was an easy decision for me. "I'm very thankful for the opportunity and I'm proud and happy to be here. I'm looking forward to hopefully having a good season."

Expected to return to the Etihad stadium at the end of the current campaign, Hart has fully embraced the Italian culture. He started his press conference at Torino's Stadio Olimpico by speaking a few words of Italian. And although he has yet to receive any welcome messages from his opposite number at city rivals Juventus, legendary goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon, Hart said he wants to make the most of an experience "few English players" get the chance to have.

"I was looking for an experience outside of English football," added Hart. "Every day at City I trained with players from all over the world who've managed to make the move to England. So for me it was an amazing opportunity to experience a new style of football. "I feel confident I can come over here to learn the language and embrace the culture. "To get the opportunity to try a new league, which a lot of English players don't get the chance to do, was too good an opportunity to turn down."

Coy on City

Although happy to talk about Torino, Hart was more coy when asked about City. He said he did not watch the Manchester derby last weekend, won by City, because "I was training. I'm pretty limited to what I can watch in my hotel room". And, amid concerns his England place could now be at risk, Hart insisted his focus was only on improving his game. "Goalkeeping in football is ever-evolving. I'm very open-minded to improve and learn every day," said Hart.

"I play football because I love football. Playing regular football is the most important thing for me. I love playing for my country... but it's an ambition of mine to play first-team football. "My options at City were limited so I'm very grateful to be here. I'm only on loan here and, technically, I'm supposed to go back to City. "But my focus is on playing for Torino. The (long-term) future will take care of itself but my future is here, it's on Sunday when we play Empoli." Hart was one of several England players lambasted for their poor performance against Iceland in France earlier this summer. But he said he is used to the flak: "People say bad things about me every single day, but football is about opinions and I don't take things too personally." —AFP



ATHENS: FIFA President Gianni Infantino speaks during the vote for the new UEFA president. —AP

INFANTINO TO BACK DOPE TAINTED RUSSIA, MUTKO

ZURICH: FIFA President Gianni Infantino hit out yesterday at attempts to "undermine" the World Cup in Russia, saying he will not judge the country on the investigation which documented a state-sponsored doping program that included soccer. Infantino told The Associated Press it is still "very good" working with Russian Sports Minister Vitaly Mutko, who has been accused of personally intervening to cover up a doping case of at least one foreign footballer in the Russian Premier League.

The details emerged in a report authored by Canadian lawyer Richard McLaren, who was attending an ethics conference at FIFA HQ as Infantino conducted a 30-minute interview with the AP. McLaren's report cast doubt on Russia's suitability to host sporting events, with the International Olympic Committee temporarily withdrawing its backing

for competitions in the country.

"It's not my job to judge this report," Infantino told the AP. "As president of football my concern has to be on football matters, has to be on doping in football. "If there are elements on doping and football, then FIFA's bodies will deal with that." There appears no risk of Russia losing the 2018 World Cup, with only nine months until the doping-tainted nation hosts the Confederations Cup, which serves as the warmup event.

"We should see this as a chance rather than trying to be negative," Infantino said. "We should see the World Cup in Russia as a chance for FIFA but also for Russia to show itself in a positive light as an organizer and a welcoming country. "Let's work in a positive sense in this direction rather than trying to undermine this event." McLaren also found that 11 positive doping cases of Russian footballers

were made to disappear.

Mutko, as well as being sports minister, leads the country's soccer federation, and sits on FIFA's ruling council. He was banned by the IOC from attending the Rio de Janeiro Olympics last month based on McLaren's findings, but he retains Infantino's backing. "We have committees in place. Whatever evidence Prof. McLaren has, he will send it to the ethics committee of FIFA, and they will instruct or not a case," Infantino said. "As long as this doesn't happen I will certainly not participate in any speculation or any problems. "I am working with the people who are there, who are legitimately elected ... he has been working in terms of the organization of the world as far as I can judge in an excellent way so far. So, for me and for us, it is certainly very good to continue working with him." —AP

BAYERN TRAIN SIGHTS ON BAVARIAN DERBY

BERLIN: Bayern Munich turn their focus from their five-star Champions League opener to domestic duty and their bid to keep their perfect start to the season in a derby home to Ingolstadt today. The reigning Bundesliga champions hammered Russian side Rostov 5-0 in Munich in their Group D opener to continue Carlo Ancelotti's impressive start to life in Germany with five wins from five matches, 20 goals scored and none conceded.

Fellow Bavarian outfit Ingolstadt are 16th after two games, with one point, and rank outsiders to spring an upset. Coach Markus Kauczinski insists his side won't be overawed in the Allianz Arena, where they will be without French defender Romain Bregerie, who has been hit by a calf injury. "We have nothing to lose," he said. "We know that everything has to be perfect today to bring something back. But we're not going to hide and we're going to remain true to our style of play." The match is the first of two at home for Bayern, who could be alone on top of the table by the end of

September-after Ingolstadt they host Hertha Berlin, the only other unbeaten team after two rounds.

Rising Bayern star Joshua Kimmich will be looking to continue his incredible run, having scored four goals in three matches. The 21-year-old, who can play either midfield or defence, has scored his first goals for Germany, in the Bundesliga and in the Champions League, where he got a brace, in just 10 days.

Kimmich in great shape

"People always said to me that as soon as I get the first one, the rest will follow," said Kimmich. "When you score you gain in confidence, more so because before I wasn't really a scorer." Ancelotti's decision to give the youngster a start paid off and he praised Kimmich as a key member of the team. "Joshua can fill every position, he's very focused and he's in great shape. It's good for the whole team," said the Italian.

Teammate Thomas Mueller, who also scored against

Rostov, added: "I'll have to stay hot on his heels until today and make sure he keeps his feet on the ground. "If we manage that, he's going to continue to play an important role for us in our forthcoming matches." French international striker Kingsley Coman is set to make his return for Bayern with Arjen Robben and Jerome Boateng expected to be fit in the coming days.

The gifted 20-year-old Coman injured an ankle when kicked by teammate Javi Martinez three weeks ago. Hertha Berlin-also on a maximum six points-host Schalke 04 looking to keep in touch with the champions before their trip to their rivals. Schalke have lost both of their matches and want to show that their courageous display against Bayern last week, where they fell to two late goals, is a sign of a fighting spirit. Borussia Dortmund, Bayern's big rival in recent seasons, were shocked last week at Leipzig, but are coming off a 6-0 Champions League thrashing of Legia Warsaw. —AFP



Matches on TV

(Local Timings)

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Hull City v Arsenal	17:00
BeIN SPORTS	
Man City v Bournemouth	17:00
BeIN SPORTS	
Leicester City v Burnley	17:00
BeIN SPORTS	
West Bromwich v West Ham	17:00
BeIN SPORTS	
Everton FC v Middlesbrough	19:30
BeIN SPORTS	

SPANISH LEAGUE

Leganes v FC Barcelona	14:00
BeIN SPORTS	
Atletico v Sporting Gijon	17:15
BeIN SPORTS	
SD Eibar v Sevilla FC	19:30
BeIN SPORTS	
Las Palmas v Malaga CF	21:45
BeIN SPORTS	

ITALIAN LEAGUE

SS Lazio v Pescara	19:00
BeIN SPORTS	
SSC Napoli v Bologna	21:45
BeIN SPORTS	

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

Bayern Munich v Ingolstadt 04	16:30
BeIN SPORTS	
Dortmund v Darmstadt 98	16:30
BeIN SPORTS	
Hamburger SV v RB Leipzig	16:30
BeIN SPORTS	
TSG Hoffenheim v Wolfsburg	16:30
BeIN SPORTS	
Eintracht v Bayer 04 Leverkusen	16:30
BeIN SPORTS	
Monchengladbach v Werder Bremen	19:30
BeIN SPORTS	

FRENCH LEAGUE

Monaco FC v Stade Rennes	18:00
BeIN SPORTS	
Lorient v Lille OSC	21:00
BeIN SPORTS	
Toulouse FC v Guingamp	21:00
BeIN SPORTS	
Lorraine v Nantes	21:00
BeIN SPORTS	
Girondins v Angers	21:00
BeIN SPORTS	
Dijon v FC Metz	21:00
BeIN SPORTS	

LA LIGA PREVIEW



BARCELONA: Barcelona's Brazilian forward Neymar (3rd right) celebrates a goal with teammates during the UEFA Champions League football match FC Barcelona vs Celtic FC at the Camp Nou stadium. —AFP

LIGA NEWCOMERS LEGANES PLOT FRESH BARCA UPSET

MADRID: Madrid minnows Leganes get their reward for an unlikely promotion to La Liga when the might of Barcelona's Lionel Messi, Luis Suarez and Neymar grace the 11,000-capacity Estadio Butarque today. Leganes have made a fine start to their first season in the Spanish top-flight, winning at Celta Vigo on the opening weekend and holding Champions League finalists Atletico Madrid to a 0-0 draw at the Butarque.

However, Leganes face an even tougher task in stopping a rampant "MSN" of Messi, Suarez and Neymar fresh from scoring six of Barca's seven goals in a Champions League rout of Celtic in midweek on their first start of the season together. Barca were in no mood for complacency on Tuesday after a shock 2-1 home defeat to another newly promoted side, Alaves, ended their perfect start to the La Liga season last weekend.

Leganes defender Pablo Insua says the Alaves result gives the hosts hope. "We have to do everything right and have luck," Insua told Marca. "We saw how Alaves did it and it is clear it can be done, but the circumstances are not the same." Barca boss Luis Enrique started Messi and Suarez on the bench

for Alaves's visit to the Camp Nou after their duties in South American World Cup qualifying.

Enrique won't make the same mistake twice, but could rotate in defense and midfield ahead of Wednesday's blockbuster La Liga clash with Atletico. Messi scored a hat-trick whilst Neymar bagged four assists and goal against Celtic as the "MSN" took their combined early season tally to 13. Neymar hopes to break the incredible 131-goal record they set last year. "To play with Messi is very easy," the Brazilian said on Thursday. "We understand each other very well, as does Suarez. We always try to help each other to ensure everything works out well."

Record-chasing Real

Barca's defeat to Alaves means they are playing catch-up to Real Madrid after just three games. Madrid have made a perfect start to the campaign and can set a club record of 16 La Liga wins with victory at Espanyol tomorrow. The European champions needed a sensational late fightback to start their Champions League defense with a win on Wednesday as Cristiano Ronaldo and Alvaro Morata

scored in the final minutes to turn around a 1-0 deficit against Sporting Lisbon.

"My dream is to be a success here," said Morata, who rejoined the club in June after a two-year spell at Juventus. "A goal like that, at home, in the Champions League, was a dream since I was a kid." Morata is expected to replace Karim Benzema up front alongside Ronaldo and Gareth Bale, should the Welshman shake off a hip injury that forced him off early in midweek. James Rodriguez is also in contention for his first start of the season after impressing as a substitute and setting up Morata's winner. Atletico will look to build on the momentum of their first two wins of the season away at Celta Vigo and PSV Eindhoven in the past week when they return to the Vicente Calderon to face high-flying Sporting Gijon today.

Sporting could go top with a surprise victory after taking seven points from their opening three games. Sevilla also have the chance to move to the top of the table for at least 24 hours when they travel to Eibar. Valencia will hope to snap their worst start to a season for 17 years by picking up their first point at Athletic Bilbao. —AFP

BALLON D'OR RETURNS TO FRANCE FOOTBALL

PARIS: The Ballon d'Or deal between France football and FIFA has ended, the French publication and football's governing body announced yesterday. The coveted award will from now on return to its original home after France Football's agreement with FIFA finished. The next recipient will be determined by a vote of journalists - players (national team captains) and managers will no longer have a say.

"The contractual agreement between FIFA and France Football expired in January. We told France

Football in early August that the contract would not be renewed," the game's governing body declared. Argentina and Barcelona star Lionel Messi won the award for a record fifth time in 2015. FIFA plans to continue its annual best player award to male and female players.

FIFA and France Football teamed up in 2010 since when only two players have been nominated for the title known as the FIFA Ballon d'Or - Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo. The first Ballon d'Or was

won by Stanley Matthews, at the time with Blackpool, who beat Alfredo Di Stefano for the inaugural title in 1956. Up to 1994 only European players were eligible. The first non-European to win it was the following year, AC Milan's Liberian star George Weah. From 2007 it honored the world's best player, with FIFA under former president Sepp Blatter entering into a deal with France Football in 2010 to merge the Ballon d'Or with FIFA's best world player honor. —AFP

WENGER WANTS A HULL OF AN EFFORT FROM GUNNERS

LONDON: Arsene Wenger will expect his Arsenal side to offer more convincing signs of their ability to compete for the Premier League title when they visit Hull City today after a testing week in Europe. A 1-1 draw at Paris Saint-Germain ensured the Gunners avoided defeat in their opening Champions League outing although the point came at the expense of a red card for Olivier Giroud.

The performance was hardly impressive and were it not for the efforts of Arsenal goalkeeper David Ospina, controversially selected ahead of Petr Cech, the home side could well have inflicted a heavy defeat on Wenger's men. That result followed last Saturday's narrow win against Southampton when it took an added-time penalty from Santi Cazorla to clinch victory and keep the north London club within five points of leaders Manchester City. Arsenal have yet to hit top form this season, although recent signings Shkodran Mustafi and Lucas Perez are still bedding into their new surroundings. There is an underlying sense they have yet to kick into gear. A failure to collect three points at Hull will confirm the view that Arsenal are in danger of losing ground to the revitalised Manchester pair of City and United.

However, Mustafi has already seen enough of Alexis Sanchez to believe the Chile forward gives Arsenal an added attacking edge. "I think in football today, modern football, it is not as static as it was and that's what makes the game so quick and so difficult," said Germany international Mustafi. "If you are a defender, you have to run all over the pitch to chase your striker and it is always difficult. I think we all know Alexis has qualities and he knows where to stand to give the opponent a difficult game. You have to give him credit for that."

Phelan uncertainty

Hull remain in takeover negotiations, with the club's prospective new owners said to be keen to appoint Mike Phelan as manager on a permanent basis. Chinese-American businessman Chien Lee is in advanced discussions over a proposed buyout worth in the region of £100 million (\$132 million, 117.7 million euros), which would end the turbulent near six-year reign of Assem Allam and his son, Ehab.

Lee, who has lived in the United States for 30 years and is the founder and chief executive of private equity firm NewCity Capital, has been on Humberside this week to visit Hull's facilities. He hopes to push through a deal following a collapsed bid from a rival group of investors in China and Hong Kong. Lee is co-owner of French Ligue 1 club Nice, along with US business partners Paul Conway and Elliott Hayes and Chinese associate Alex Zheng. All three men could also be involved in the proposed Tigers' buyout. Lee is ready to accept a recommendation from vice-chairman Ehab, who runs Hull on a day-to-day basis, to offer Phelan a chance to manage team affairs full-time.

The 53-year-old former Manchester United assistant has expressed his frustration at the uncertainty over his position as his spell in caretaker charge approaches two months since the resignation of Steve Bruce in July. Phelan, who is set for further talks over his future after the weekend, was named Premier League manager of the month for August after guiding the relegation favorites to eighth place with seven points from their opening four games. "There's a bit of belief now and hopefully we can cement our place outside the bottom area of the league," Phelan said. "If you get in that area, it can be difficult so we have to be in the frame of mind that we can go to the next level," he added. —AFP



MILAN: Hapoel Beer Sheva's Hungarian midfielder Mihaly Korhut (left) vies for the ball with Inter Milan's Argentinian midfielder Ever Banega during the Europa League football match between Inter Milan and Hapoel Beer Sheva on September 15, 2016 at the San Siro Stadium. —AFP

INTER FACE JUVE ACID TEST IN DERBY D'ITALIA

MILAN: Mauro Icardi's dream of "winning trophies" with Inter Milan has been dealt a Europa League blow and now faces a Serie A acid test in Sunday's visit of champions Juventus for the "Derby d'Italia". The Argentine striker has hit the net six times against the Old Lady of Turin, including three times with his former club Sampdoria. And with three goals from the opening three games of the season, the 23-year-old fans' favorite will be looking to stretch his impressive record against Juve's legendary 'keeper Gianluigi Buffon.

Already five points behind the league-leading Turin giants, Inter are in dire need of fresh hope after suffering a stunning 2-0 home defeat by Hapoel Be'er Sheva in their Europa League opener on Thursday. Icardi said in the lead-up to the game he would love to emulate his idol, former Inter and Barcelona striker Ronaldo, who helped Inter to the UEFA Cup title in 1998. "Ronaldo is the biggest striker of all time, but I want to win trophies wearing this jersey as well," he said.

Icardi failed to make an impact as a late substitute on Thursday, when Inter looked anything but title challengers. Juventus defender Leonardo Bonucci expects a "fierce" encounter at the San

Siro but, after a chastening scoreless draw with Sevilla in their Champions League opener in midweek, says Juve won't be swayed from their bid to win a record sixth consecutive title.

"I expect a fierce game because let's not forget: it's the Italian Derby," Bonucci told Sky Sport. "As a squad they (Inter) are still under construction, they have new players and a new coach. They will want to show that they can vie with Juventus. "But after our Champions League draw, they'll face an even hungrier Juventus side—one that wants to become the first team in Italy to win six consecutive league titles."

An Inter defeat would leave Frank de Boer's men eight points behind Juve after just four games and heap further pressure on the Dutchman after Thursday's shocker. Juve coach Massimiliano Allegri is under no such pressure but is set to ring the changes with Dani Alves doubtful for tomorrow's clash after suffering a knock against Sevilla. Alves will be "monitored regularly" to see if he is fit, although Allegri can count on wingback Stephan Lichtsteiner, left out of the Italian giants' Champions League squad, as a replacement. Croatia striker Mario Mandzukic,

left on the bench on Wednesday, could also return to partner either Gonzalo Higuain or Paulo Dybala.

Napoli buoyant

Napoli host Bologna at their San Paolo stadium today looking to continue their bright start to the season. Maurizio Sarri's men are tied for second place in the league with Roma at two points behind Juventus and morale is sky high after victory away in Kiev in their Champions League group opener in mid-week.

Last season Higuain hit a league record 36 goals for Napoli, and although the Argentine has found the net three times in the league since joining Juve, he is fast becoming a distant memory at the San Paolo. Spanish defender Raul Albiol told Napoli's official radio station Kiss Kiss: "Our squad's now bigger in number but we've also grown in terms of quality. "We're a competitive side and want to find consistency in the league as well. We're already totally focused today's match with Bologna." On Sunday Roma, who eked out a 1-1 Europa League draw at Plzen, travel to Fiorentina, who held PAOK to a scoreless draw in Greece. —AFP

Sports



Paralympic fencers:
Group of lethal
wheelchair 'warriors'



ROTTERDAM: Manchester United's Paul Pogba (right) vies with Feyenoord's Karim El Ahmadi during the UEFA Europa League football match between Feyenoord Rotterdam and Manchester United at the Feyenoord Stadium. (Inset) Manchester United's manager Jose Mourinho reacts during the match. —AFP photos

FEYENOORD SINKS SHAMBOLIC UNITED

PARIS: Manchester United went down to defeat in their opening Europa League group game on Thursday, while Premier League rivals Southampton won and Irish champions Dundalk claimed an impressive draw in the Netherlands. AFP Sports picks out the best of the action on match-day one:

United's European nightmare continues

Jose Mourinho's reluctant return to the Europa League ended in embarrassment as Tony Vilhena fired Feyenoord to a 1-0 win over Manchester United in their Group A opener in Rotterdam.

Mourinho sent out a much-changed line-up that could not prevent United slipping to a second consecutive defeat after their painful loss to bitter rivals Manchester City in the Premier League. With only David de Gea, Paul Pogba and Eric Bailly retained from the side beaten by City, it was little surprise to see United deliver a disjointed performance. Giovanni van Bronckhorst's team had swept to the top of the Dutch league with five successive victories and they made their lethargic opponents pay when they got the only goal with 11 minutes left. Exposed down the right

flank by Nicolai Jorgensen's run that beat the offside trap, United's defenders were noticeable by their absence when the unmarked Vilhena swept home from just inside the penalty area and the De Kuip arena exploded. United next host Zorya Luhansk, who drew 1-1 at home to Fenerbahce in Ukraine.

Dream start for Sassuolo

While Inter Milan were beaten at home by Hapoel Be'er Sheva and both Roma and Fiorentina drew on the road, it was a great night for another Italian side. Sassuolo, appearing in Europe for

the first time, started their Group F campaign with a rousing 3-0 home win against 2012 Europa League runners-up Athletic Bilbao. Teenage Spaniard Pol Lirola put Sassuolo ahead on the hour mark and they did not look back, Gregoire Defrel making it two on 75 minutes before Matteo Politano sealed the win.

Zenit's stunning comeback

The performance of the night came in the other game in the group as former UEFA Cup winners Zenit St Petersburg stormed back from three goals down

with less than a quarter of an hour remaining to beat Maccabi Tel-Aviv 4-3 in Israel. The hosts had appeared to be on easy street as two goals by Haris Medunjanin either side of a Vidar Orn Kjartansson header had them 3-0 in front. But Russian international Alexander Kokorin pulled one back on 77 minutes before Eli Dasa was red-carded for Maccabi. Substitute Mauricio further reduced the deficit and Giuliano equalised on 86 minutes, leaving plenty of time for the Montenegrin Luka Djordjevic to score the winner in injury time with a diving header. —AFP