

**Bukhamseen
bags Sheikh
Essa Award**



**Rouhani slams
US over
nuclear deal**



**Williamson
leads NZ on
rain-hit day**



MISSILES BATTER ALEPPO AS TRUCE BID COLLAPSES

RUSSIA-BACKED SYRIA FORCES LAUNCH GROUND ASSAULT



Min 27°
Max 46°



ALEPPO: Syrians carry the body of a child after pulling it out from under the rubble of a building following bombardment on the Al-Marja neighborhood of the northern Syrian city of Aleppo yesterday. — AFP

BEIRUT: Warplanes bombed Aleppo yesterday with what residents described as unprecedented ferocity after the Russian-backed Syrian army declared an offensive to fully capture Syria's biggest city, killing off any hope of reviving a ceasefire. Nearly 70 civilians including several children were killed and dozens wounded in the raids by Russian warplanes and regime aircraft, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based monitoring group, said.

Video images filmed by residents showed a young girl screaming as rescuers frantically dug her out of rubble, pulling her out alive. Another showed rescuers digging out a toddler with their bare hands, shouting "God is Great" as they lift him from the debris. The boy showed no signs of life as he was rushed off in a rescuer's arms.

The escalation came after US Secretary of State John Kerry failed to reach an agreement with Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov on terms to salvage a failed ceasefire. Asked by reporters at the United Nations whether the truce could be reinstated, Lavrov simply said: "You should ask the Americans."

The apparent collapse of US-backed peacemaking may mark a turning point in the five-year civil war, with the government and its Russian and Iranian allies now seemingly determined to crush the rebellion in its biggest urban stronghold. "Can you hear it? The neighborhood is getting hit right now by missiles. We can hear the planes right now," Mohammad Abu Rajab, a radiologist, told Reuters. "The planes are not leaving the sky, helicopters, barrel bombs, warplanes."

In its late night announcement on Thursday, the Syrian military announced "the start of its operations in the eastern districts of Aleppo". It warned residents to stay away from "the headquarters and positions of the armed terrorist gangs". An army source said yesterday that the offensive would be "comprehensive", with a ground assault following air and artillery bombardment. "With respect to the air or artillery strikes, they may continue for some time," he said. Several residents said explosions had struck with far greater force than anything that had hit the city in the past, making bigger craters and bringing entire buildings down.

Ammar Al-Selmo, the head of the Civil Defense, said the rescuers themselves were targeted, with three of their four centres in Aleppo hit. "What's happening now is annihilation in every sense of the word," he told Reuters. "Today the bombardment is more violent, with a larger number of planes." The bombing came after the Syrian army announced overnight that it was launching an operation to recapture the rebel-held sector of the city. Western diplomats fear a bloodbath if the government unleashes a full-blown assault to capture the besieged opposition-held zone, where 250,000 civilians are still trapped. "The only way to take eastern Aleppo is by such a monstrous atrocity that it would resonate for generations. It would be the stuff of history," one Western diplomat said.

The assault left no doubt that the government of President Bashar Al-Assad and its Russian allies had spurned a plea from US Secretary of State John Kerry to halt flights to resurrect the ceasefire, which collapsed on Monday after a week.

Recovering full control of the rebels' last significant urban area would be the most important victory of the war so far for Assad, strengthening his control over Syria's most populous and strategically important regions. — Agencies

YAHOO HACK IN 2014 HIT 500 MILLION USERS

SAN FRANCISCO: Yahoo said Thursday a massive attack on its network in 2014 allowed hackers to steal data from half a billion users and may have been "state sponsored." Yahoo, which confirmed details of the breach months after reports of a major hack, said its investigation concluded that "certain user account information was stolen" and that the attack came from "what it believes is a state-sponsored actor."

"Based on the ongoing investigation, Yahoo believes that information associated with at least 500 million user accounts was stolen," said a statement by the US internet giant in what is likely the largest-ever breach for a single organization. "Yahoo is working closely with law enforcement on this matter." The comments come after a report earlier this year quoted a security researcher saying some 200 million accounts may have been accessed and that hacked data was being offered for sale online.

Yahoo said the stolen information may have included names, email addresses, birth dates, and scrambled passwords, along with encrypted or unencrypted security questions and answers that could help hackers break into victims' other online accounts. While there is no official record of the largest breaches, many analysts have called the Myspace hack revealed earlier this year as the largest to date, with 360 million users affected. — AFP

OBAMA TO BLOCK 9/11 PROSECUTION OF SAUDI

WASHINGTON: Barack Obama was to veto a legislation allowing 9/11 victims to sue Saudi Arabia, risking public outrage and the first congressional override of his presidency. The White House confirmed late Thursday that Obama would veto the legislation-unanimously passed by Congress-allowing 9/11 families to launch civil suits against Riyadh. "We believe this is a bad bill," said White House spokesman Josh Earnest. "It's why the president's going to veto it."

The White House argues the legislation would undermine sovereign immunity and potentially expose US officials and service members to litigation. That technical legal argument will struggle to be heard over emotive accusations that Obama is putting relations with Saudi Arabia before 9/11 victims.

Republican nominee Donald Trump has already tried to paint Obama and his would-be successor Hillary Clinton as weak on terrorism. Clinton has preemptively voiced support for congressional efforts "to secure the ability of 9/11 families and other victims of terror to hold accountable those responsible," according to Jesse Lehigh, a campaign spokesman.

But with the election less than 50 days away, the Republican-led Congress will try to deal Obama a significant political blow by overriding his veto. Such overrides are rare and this one would show the White House to be almost cripplingly weak as Obama tries to tick off remaining legislative goals in the twilight of his presidency. — AFP

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2016

Kuwait Times

Weekender

www.kuwaittimes.net

A model wearing a dress made from liquorice and candy parades on the catwalk during a Halloween themed costume contest at the opening of the 2016 Metropolitan Fashion Week in Los Angeles, California. —AFP

Armani revels in new freedom with catwalk charm offensive

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KUWAIT FINANCES UNESCO PROGRAM

AMMAN: The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) signed an agreement with Jordan's Al-Yarmouk University for an educational program for Syrian refugees, worth \$500,000 financed by Kuwait. The agreement was signed in a ceremony held in the university premises, where Kuwait's Ambassador to Jordan Dr Hamad Al-Duaij along with

UNESCO officials were in attendance to seal a deal that would provide education for some 200 Syrian pupils.

Moreover, the Kuwaiti Ambassador said that his country is steadfast in its humanitarian support of Syrian refugees, particularly, in the field of education. Meanwhile, representative of UNESCO's office in the Jordanian capital Farina Costanza said that Kuwait has "generously financed" this pro-

gram to prop up UNESCO's efforts of giving the Syrian refugees an opportunity to enter the job market.

Speaking on Kuwait's contributions to UNESCO's projects, she noted that the country's "commitment has been valuable". President of Yarmouk University Refaat Al-Faouri said that the program provides vocational courses for Syrian refugees, in addition to undergraduate

scholarships. The agreement follows a similar one signed earlier this month by Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) and Arab Open University (AOU), part of Kuwait's pledge to allocate \$300 million to educate Syrian refugees. According to official Jordanian statistics, half of the 1.4 million Syrian refugees reside in the Hashemite Kingdom. — KUNA

FM URGES OIC STATES TO STEP UP ACTION AGAINST TERRORISM

NEW YORK: Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah has called on Islamic states to step up joint effort to confront the challenges facing the Islamic world, foremost terrorism. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled made the remarks while chairing an annual coordinating meeting of foreign ministers of member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), to coordinate positions over the agenda items of the UN General Assembly's (UNGA) 71st session.

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled said the Islamic world is facing huge challenges, foremost terrorism, in addition to the Palestinian cause, the conflicts in Syria, Iraq and Yemen. He called on the importance of the coordination of positions of OIC member countries to confronting these challenges. The meeting, held on sidelines of the UNGA's 71st session, was attended from the Kuwaiti side by Assistant Foreign Minister for Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled's office Ambassador Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Mohammad Al-Sabah, the permanent representative to the UN Mansour Al-Otaibi and Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for International Organizations Nasser Al-Hayyen.

Constructive partnership

Meanwhile, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has called for a constructive partnership with Iran's neighboring countries, and said the nuclear agreement proved how successful diplomacy and dialogue could be. "Iran's calls for constructive partnership with our neighbors with a view of establishing an enduring order based on shared security and efforts aimed at enhancing the development of the countries in the region and mutually beneficial economic cooperation," Rouhani said in a speech before the UN General Assembly. The Iranian leader said that regional countries could create "their shared future through relying on their common history and culture, and isolating terrorist groups."

Rouhani, who rejected any kind of sectarianism and terrorism, called for the need to use diplomacy for conflict resolution. He said terrorism, which he said struck New York 15 years ago, was posing a growing threat on the entire world, including the Middle East, at an "astonishing speed." Rouhani said the region has been suffering from crises affecting people from different countries. — Agencies

Photo

o f t h e d a y



KUWAIT: Viola flowers blossom as Kuwait temperature drops to 40 degrees Celsius. — KUNA

VIVA TO OFFER IPHONE 7 AND IPHONE 7 PLUS

KUWAIT: VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator yesterday announced it will offer iPhone 7 and iPhone 7 Plus, the best, most advanced iPhone ever, featuring an all-new advanced camera system, dust and water resistant design, stereo speaker

system and the A10 Fusion chip which is the most powerful chip on any smartphone while delivering the best battery life ever in an iPhone. Commenting on this occasion, Abdulrazzaq Bader Al-Essa, Director of Corporate Communications at VIVA, said: "VIVA is extremely delighted to provide to the long-awaited incredible iPhone 7 and iPhone 7 Plus.

He added: "We strive to offer our customers the latest technologies to continuously make their communications easier and more convenient." iPhone 7 and iPhone 7 Plus is powered by iOS 10, the biggest release ever of the world's most advanced mobile operating system. Customers can purchase iPhone 7 and iPhone 7 Plus at one of VIVA's 70 branches, the VIVA website at www.viva.com.kw or VIVA's 24-hour call center at 102. For complete details on pricing, please visit: www.viva.com.kw. For more information on iPhone, please visit: www.apple.com/iphone.



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KUWAITIS - 3RD IN BUYING HOUSES IN TURKEY GCC HOLDS LARGE INVESTMENTS IN MOROCCO

ANKARA: Kuwaitis are the third place in preference of purchasing properties in Turkey, Turkish Statistical Institute (Turkstat) announced yesterday. According to House Sales Statistic for the month of August, Kuwaitis bought 155 houses in August putting them in third place. Iraqis came first for buying 267 houses and the Saudis came in second with 173 house sales. House sales to foreigners decreased by 26% compared to the same period of last year, the data showed. The total number of house sales to foreigners came to 1,512 with 390 houses sold in Istanbul alone, it added. Other preferred cities were Antalya, Bursa, Trabzon, Yalova and Aydin.

Investments in Morocco

King Mohammed VI, of Morocco, said that the GCC states currently hold a large share of direct foreign investments in his country compared with other countries. The flow of foreign direct investments, of which a large number come from the Gulf Cooperation Council, has enabled the Kingdom to consolidate its reputation among international partners, rating agencies, and investors, King Mohammed VI said.

The Moroccan monarch made his



remarks in a message directed to the participants in the 40th Meeting of Council of Arab central bank governors and of Arab monetary agencies, which kicked off earlier in Rabat. He also stressed the importance of the institu-

tional, economic, monetary, and political reformations, adopted by his government, at several sectors in bolstering the Kingdom's economic status amidst difficult regional and international circumstances. — Agencies

KUWAITI SEA MERCHANTS HAD TO ENCOUNTER MERCILESS SEA

KUWAIT: Kuwait's natives in the old times struggled to earn their bread journeying to remote countries by sea for trade but tragic accidents in choppy waters resulted in many deaths or life-long deformity and torment. Depending on their muscles, the Kuwaiti sea merchants journeyed aboard dhows to India and east African countries seeking trade in diverse merchandise, namely food and spices. However, some of these sail-powered wooden boats and ships sank and the Kuwaitis on board perished.

The Kuwaitis called such ill fate accidents; the boats ending up in the sea bottom, "Tabaat," and such tragic event was referred to as "Tabaa," thus it goes down in history books as "Tabaat Bahman," "Tabaat Bin Ghaith," or the most horrific one, "Tabaat Bilal Al-Sagr"-all in reference to sponsors of the sea trips or the "Nokhatha"-the dhow captain. The year 1871 was called "Al-Tabaa Year," because a number of Kuwaiti wooden vessels sailing to India and eastern Africa sank due to fierce storms that whipped the region stretching from India to Muscat, Oman, says Nawaf Al-Asfour, the Kuwaiti marine heritage researcher, in an interview with Kuwait News Agency (KUNA).

Al-Asfour said Kuwaiti ships sank, sailors and merchants perished in a series of identical accidents in following years; such as "Tabaat Bahman" and "Tabaat Bin Ghaith," but "Tabaa Al-Nokhatha Bilal Al-Sagr" is the most famous tragic accident of the kind in the country's history. Bilal Al-Sagr was one of the most popular "Nokhathas" in the old times. He was known for his caution, good manners and experience in sailing the dhows. He used to launch several journeys during a single season. He was also known as quite and generous who always made sure that his ship would include needed materials and supplies before setting the sail.

However, he could not escape his fate in a trip from India to Kuwait, thus he drowned along with his sea men in what was known as "Tabaat Al-Sagr." Narrating the accident, Al-Asfour said on May 20th, 1942, Al-Sagr set sail from Pumeii, India, journeying to Kuwait Via the Arabian Sea. The winds were moderate during the first day of the journey-called by the Kuwaitis these times "bahri ala had al-yosh." However, in the second night, the winds gained strength prompting Al-Sagr and his crew to change the sails, but in the fourth night, the gales turned into a fiery storm with gigantic waves whipping the wooden ship and making the sea men to shiver with overwhelming fear.

The captain ordered some cargo to be dumped into the waters but unfortunately they slammed back into the ship causing cracks and water seeping into the vessel, thus it started to sink. The sailors unlocked "Al-Mashwa," an emergency boat, in bid to spare their souls. Those who boarded the small vessel survived others jumped into the waters and tried to remain afloat failed to remain alive due to the ferocious waves and downpours.

Seaman Mohammad Al-Tlaihi was one of those who were picked up alive from the choppy waters. These survivors encountered bad fortune anew when a very strong wave struck their small boat tearing it apart. Al-Sagr was injured in the chest and bled to death, but again some of the sailors managed to swim to an Iranian ship. Among the survivors, who totaled 12, was Mubarak Al-Mjaibel. The demised numbered 24, including the captain, as well as Khalifa Bin Noman and Ibrahim Bin Matar.

On the fifth day of the ill-fated journey, ferocity of the storm subsided. Such a condition was called by the ancestors "Darbat Al-Ikleel." Continuing his narration, Al-Asfour said the surviving Kuwaiti seamen proceeded to Pumeii aboard the Iranian ship where they joined fellow citizens, namely the famous merchant Thunnayan Al-Ghanim, who personally took care of them and arranged for their safe journey back home, where the somber news spread among the residents and a cloud of deep sadness hung in the air. — KUNA



TWO ARRESTED OVER FAKE STAMPS

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Two Arab expats were recently arrested for selling fake KD 10 revenue stamps for half price, said security sources, noting that the suspects confessed to receiving the fake stamps from abroad.

New security plan

Mol's Relations and Security Media Director Brigadier Adel Ahmed Al-Hashash said that the security sectors have put a special plan in place as the new school year begins. Al-Hashash added that 486 police patrols have been deployed to secure various streets and schools to deal with possible traffic congestions. He also noted that traffic light timings would be adjusted. Al-Hashash said that Mol Undersecretary

Lt General Suleiman Al-Fahad had instructed all senior security officials of various ranks to be present on various streets to follow up the plan.

Contagious disease

A Filipino was recently arrested in a Salmiya Spa after his medical tests showed that he is infected with a contagious disease.

Bus accident

Two Asian were seriously injured while five others sustained various wounds and bruises when a bus overturned along King Abdul Aziz expressway. Security sources said all the injured persons were rushed to Adan hospital for treatment.

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ZAIN DEBUTS SOCIAL MEDIA AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

KUWAIT: Zain Group, a leading mobile technology innovator in eight markets across the Middle East and Africa, has unveiled an awareness campaign across all of its social media channels to support key aspects of the United Nations' outlook for 2030, and Global Goals for Sustainable Development. The launch of the new campaign mirrors the UN General Assembly Week that is currently taking place in New York.

The campaign by Zain, tagged "#Bethevoiceofchange" across all the company's social media platforms including its Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn and Google+ platforms, demonstrates the company's ongoing commitment to supporting an ethical and positive approach to conducting its operations and respecting all people. Today, Zain Group and its eight local operations now boast more than 14 million fans and followers across all social media platforms.

Zain Group will collaborate with a wide range of companies based in the Middle East and Africa to develop social networks to tackle issues of the eradication of poverty; propel forward the fight against injustice and inequality; and deal directly with the issue of climate change. These are amongst the list of 17 Global Goals for Sustainable Development that were adopted by 193 world leaders at the UN in September 2015.

The upliftment of socio-economic standards in the markets in which Zain Group operates has always been a key strategic priority for the company, with the company utilizing numerous corporate sustainability initiatives to positively impact communities. The Global Goals feed right into Zain Group's own sustainability values and outlook given its pledge in 2012 to reduce emissions from its operations by 2020, as well as its campaigns and engagements to protect and improve the quality of lives in communities in which it operates.

Commenting on the latest corporate social responsibility campaign, Zain Group CEO, Scott Gegenheimer said, "We have been working with the UN on its Global Goals for Sustainable Development for some time now, and we are deeply encouraged by the program's aim and impact in adding dignity to people's lives around the world. We feel privileged in playing our part in this noble endeavor, and our latest social media campaign is set to add even more value to raising greater awareness to the view that we all gain when people's living standards are elevated."

On her part, Jennifer Suleiman, Head of Corporate Sustainability of Zain Group said, "Our region is facing many challenges and we at Zain are keen to use our vast resources and play an active role in the dissemination of the Global



Goals call for action message. We believe that if governments, companies, and individuals place the Sustainability Development Goals at the core of their business activities and take responsibility of the circumstances around them, our world will be transformed for the benefit of all."

The success of the Global Goals for Sustainable Development is primarily driven by institutional support from governments and corporations, with Zain Group being ideally placed to create active awareness of the UN's worthy objec-

tives. With this renewed commitment, Zain together with its corporate partners will contribute directly to improving the lives of communities across the region. Last year, Zain Group supported a combined effort with 26 mobile operator groups to reach seven billion people in seven days with text messages of the Global Goals for Sustainable Development. The text message campaign saw 125 individual operational mobile companies in over 100 countries around the world raise awareness of the Global Goals campaign.

KUWAIT RANKS WORST IN GCC FOR EXPATS: HSBC

KUWAIT: Only three weeks after the InterNations Foundation ranked Kuwait as the worst country for expats to live in, Kuwait was once more ranked the last in GCC and 35th worldwide in terms of the best country for expat life according to the Expat Explorer survey issued by HSBC bank. According to the 2016 survey, Kuwait fell back one notch from 34 to 35 amongst 45 world countries - starting with Singapore as number one and Brazil as number 45 in terms of the best destinations for expats.

In addition, the study showed that Bahrain was the prime destination for expats in GCC states and came 9th worldwide followed by UAE which ranked second in GCC and 12th worldwide. The report also showed that Oman came 3rd in GCC and 18th worldwide; Qatar came 4th in GCC and 29th worldwide; Saudi Arabia came 5th in GCC and 31 worldwide while Kuwait came last in GCC and 35th worldwide.

The study also included expats' economic status, experiences and family lives. Bahrain came 17th in economics, 6th in experiences and 9th in family life followed by UAE which ranked fifth rank in economics, ninth in experiences and 22nd in family life. Oman came 14th in economics, 15th in experiences and 34th in family life. Qatar ranked 8th in economics, 40 in experiences and 36 in family life. Saudi Arabia came 11th in economics, 37th in experiences and 39th in family life. Finally, Kuwait came 22nd in economics, 43rd in experiences and 41 in family life. — Al-Rai

KUWAIT URGES RESORTING TO UN ITEM 7 IN RESPONSE TO ISRAEL'S PRACTICES

GENEVA: Kuwait has called for discussions on human rights' deterioration in the occupied Arab territories according to item 7. A lot of such recurring violations of these rights by Israel in the occupied territories are tantamount to war crimes and crimes against humanity, said Kuwait's Permanent Delegate to the UN and other international organizations in Geneva, Ambassador Jamal Al-Ghuneim while addressing the Council's 33rd session.

Credibility of the UNHRC will be at stake, now more than any other times, in case the Council's member States abstained from shouldering their responsibilities toward the Palestinian people, Ambassador Al-Ghuneim warned in his statement to the Council. Nations of the globe view the Council as an effective international body capable of undertaking serious measures to boost and safeguard the human rights all over the world, particularly in the occupied Palestinian territories, Kuwait envoy noted.

The Council's current debates on conditions in the occupied territories coincide with renewed Israeli breaches of all legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, he said, stressing on necessity of safeguarding these rights, namely the basic right to living, determining their destiny, ending the occupation and establishing the independent and sov-

ereignty of a Palestinian State, with East Jerusalem as its capital, in line with relevant UN resolutions.

He called for coercing Israel to stop promptly such breaches, abide by the relevant UN resolutions and accords, also urging in particular for releasing thousands of Palestinian prisoners, lifting the unjust siege on Gaza, opening the checkpoints and military blockades dotting the occupied territories. Continuation of such Israeli practices jeopardizes chances for establishing peace, he said, also noting that Israel has recently reacted to a call by the international Quartet to stop construction of settlements by expanding the settlements further.

Ambassador Al-Ghuneim called for considering seriously Israel's settlement activities in the occupied territories, especially in East Jerusalem and its peripheries, continuing construction of the separation wall, judaization measures in Jerusalem, demolishing the Palestinians' private and public properties, excavation works under Al-Aqsa Mosque and other sacred sites in the holy city. Such actions, which account to explicit breach of Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, will torpedo diplomatic efforts aimed at ending the occupation and establishing the independent Palestinian State and threaten the whole regional stability, he warned. — KUNA

International

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NEW YORK: Demonstrators protest against Iran's President Hassan Rouhani outside the United Nations headquarters, where Rouhani addresses the 71st session of the United Nations General Assembly. — AFP

ROUHANI SLAMS US OVER NUKE DEAL

IRAN USES UN AS AN INTERMEDIATE FOR CRITICISM

UNITED NATIONS: Iran used the UN General Assembly on Thursday to accuse the United States of failing to meet its commitments under a historic nuclear deal. President Hassan Rouhani complained that America is dragging its feet on its side of the bargain. "The lack of compliance (with the deal) on the part of the United States in the past several months represents a flawed approach that should be rectified forthwith," Rouhani told the world body.

The agreement between Tehran, Washington and five other major powers came into force in January. Iran accepted curbs to its nuclear program in exchange for their lifting sanctions. While observers say Iran has met its commitments, Tehran accuses Washington of continuing to block the Islamic republic from the international banking system, limiting its ability to benefit from the lifting of sanctions.

Iran says the deal has already boosted its oil exports, but that international banks are concerned they may be prosecuted by the US Treasury if they do business with Iran. "They scare, they frighten the big banks with the threat of potential action by the United States Treasury. This is something that we oppose," Rouhani told reporters following his address. He accused the United States of causing delays, a "complete lack of transparency" and failure to take action on its commitments. "Other nations are working hard to realize their commitments," he said.

'A victory'

On returning to Iran yesterday, Rouhani told reporters that the United States had promised to comply with the deal. The US made the pledge during a meeting of foreign ministers of world powers who signed the deal, he told reporters at Tehran air-

port. "The US promised to correct the procedure," he said. The other parties to the deal also told the US it was not complying, he said. "This is very important in my opinion," he said. "It was a victory." Tehran has threatened to take action in the International Court of Justice against the United States if \$2 billion in frozen assets belonging to its central bank is diverted to American victims of terror attacks. "We see this as an international heist to be quite frank," Rouhani told reporters in New York. "I am certain that we will be legally victorious and the United States will be fined for this transgression," he added. But he also gave a staunch defense of the nuclear deal as in the best interests of Iran, its economy and its people, saying that trade with the European Union was up more than 44 percent already this month. "The question then becomes what will we do if the United States continues non-adherence," he said, referring to complaint

mechanisms built into the deal. "A complaint would be brought to this joint commission and the ministers of foreign affairs from seven countries would talk," he said. Asked about November's US presidential election, with Democrat Hillary Clinton competing against Republican Donald Trump, Rouhani said it made no difference to Iran who won as long as the incoming US administration respected Iran and decreased tension.

The nuclear agreement has faced opposition from ultra-conservatives in Iran and the United States, led by Republican opponents of Democratic President Barack Obama's administration. Addressing reporters in Tehran yesterday, Rouhani said Iran was meeting its side of the deal. "Of course, we ourselves, as always and as the supreme leader has stressed, meet our commitments according to our Islamic duties, as long as the other side meets its commitments," he said. — AFP

INDONESIA ARRESTS PEOPLE-SMUGGLER

JAKARTA: Indonesian police said yesterday they had arrested a notorious people-smuggler over an attempt to send a boatload of asylum seekers to New Zealand in 2015. Abraham Louhenapessy, known as "Captain Bram", was arrested Thursday in Jakarta for allegedly purchasing the boat that was used in the suspected crime in May last year, said police official Sulistiono.

It was the third time in the past decade police had arrested Louhenapessy, who reportedly brought more than 1,500 asylum

seekers to Australia during many years as a key figure in the people-smuggling trade. "Abraham is known to be an old player in human trafficking," Sulistiono, who like many Indonesians goes by one name, told reporters. Louhenapessy was jailed for a brief time after his first arrest in 2007. But when he was arrested again in 2009 — after being found holed up on a boat full of asylum seekers—he was only fined.

He was detained in the capital after returning from overseas, the official said. The peo-

ple-smuggling attempt involved a bid to send 65 mostly Sri Lankan migrants to New Zealand in a boat from Indonesia, long a key transit point on well-established people-smuggling routes. Police said Louhenapessy and 10 other Indonesians and foreigners involved in a people-smuggling ring were paid \$325,000 by the migrants.

The boat was intercepted by Australian customs and navy vessels, and the migrants were sent back to Indonesia in different boats. The case sparked a serious diplomatic row

between Jakarta and Canberra after the captain and crew claimed they were paid about \$30,000 to head back to Indonesia and never engage in people-smuggling again. Australia refused to deny the allegations. The captain and crew were caught and jailed in Indonesia in January after being found guilty on people-smuggling charges. Australia introduced tough immigration policies in 2013 to stop would-be refugees trying to reach its territory in measures that have been condemned as violating international law. —AFP



ROSETTA: Egyptian policemen and medics stand over a body of a migrant along the shore in the Egyptian port city. — AFP

AT LEAST 133 BODIES RECOVERED FROM EGYPT MIGRANT SHIPWRECK

RECOVERY ATTEMPTS WERE CONTINUING

CAIRO: The death toll from a migrant boat disaster off Egypt's coast climbed to 133 yesterday as rescuers recovered more bodies from the Mediterranean. Survivors have said up to 450 migrants were on board the overcrowded fishing vessel that was heading to Italy from Egypt when it keeled over off the port city of Rosetta on Wednesday. "The death toll from the illegal migrant boat that capsized off the coast of Rosetta... has reached 133," the health ministry said in a statement.

The military said it had rescued 163 survivors. Recovery attempts were continuing. Rescuers had said search operations would focus on the boat's hold where witnesses said around 100 people had been when the vessel flipped over. Authorities have arrested four suspected people traffickers over the tragedy, the latest in what the UN refugee agency expects to be the deadliest year on record for the Mediterranean.

The accident comes months after the EU border agency Frontex warned that growing numbers of Europe-bound migrants were using Egypt as a departure point for the dangerous voyage. Traffickers often use barely seaworthy vessels and overload them to extract the maximum money in fares from desperate migrants.

Popular route

The International Organization for Migration said most of those rescued were Egyptians but also included Sudanese, Eritreans, a Syrian and an Ethiopian. After Balkan countries closed the popular overland route in March and the EU agreed a deal with Turkey to halt departures, asylum-seekers turned to other ways to reach Europe.

Frontex chief Fabrice Leggeri said in June that the crossing from Egypt to Italy, which often takes more than 10 days, was becoming increasingly popu-

lar. The UN refugee agency said yesterday that more than 4,600 non-Egyptians, many of them Sudanese and Ethiopians, had been arrested this year trying to depart from Egypt's northern coast. More than 10,000 people have died attempting to cross the Mediterranean to Europe since 2014, according to the United Nations.

At least 300,000 migrants have crossed the sea so far this year from various points of departure, the UN said this week. The number is down from 520,000 in the first nine months of 2015. But despite the lower numbers attempting the crossing, fatality rates had risen, with 2016 on track to be "the deadliest year on record in the Mediterranean Sea," said the UN refugee agency (UNHCR). The European Union launched "Operation Sophia" last year to destroy smuggler boats that could be used to ferry migrants across the Mediterranean. — AFP

A PAINFUL RETURN FOR RESIDENTS OF FALLUJAH

FALLUJAH: In the three days since the Iraqi city of Fallujah was reopened for residents following its recapture from the Islamic State group, just over 500 families have returned home, Maj Gen Saad Al-Harbea, the head of west Baghdad operations, said. Hundreds more have massed around the checkpoints that block the city's entrance to await the multiple security approvals required to re-enter Fallujah, which lies 40 miles west of the Iraqi capital. But the vast majority of the 300,000 people that made up the city's prewar population remain scattered across the country.

Fallujah was the first Iraqi city to fall to IS, in January 2014. Its civilian population steadily declined after the militant takeover, with some families renting homes in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, or traveling further north to the country's semi-autonomous Kurdish region.

Many more civilians were forced out of the city by Iraqi troops as they pushed through Fallujah, leaving a ghost town in their wake. Fallujah was declared "fully liberated" in June, following an operation that officially lasted just over a month and was assisted by US-led airstrikes. The tens of thousands of people who left the city last summer often ended up in desert camps with little food or water.

Al-Harbea defended the security checks outside Fallujah as essential to preventing IS from regaining power in the city. "Of course we need to turn some people away," he said. He said Iraqi intelligence agencies had drawn up lists of IS collaborators based on information from local leaders and informants within the extremist group. Ten families had been turned away so far because "they had sons or fathers with connections to Daesh," he said, using the Arabic acronym for the Islamic State group.

Repopulating territory retaken from IS militants is a slow process, demonstrating how painstaking wider reconciliation efforts will be in Iraq, where suspicions and enmity plague communities long after the fighting stops and victory has been declared. In Fallujah, the process is rendered more difficult by the town's history of anti-government sentiment. After the US-led invasion toppled Iraq's long-standing leader Saddam Hussein in 2003, many of Fallujah's residents initially supported the Sunni insurgency that rose up against US forces and the Shiite-dominated government in Baghdad. Militants from al-Qaida in Iraq fought two bloody battles with US troops in Fallujah in 2004, in which more than 100 Americans were killed and over 1,000 wounded.

Little has changed

Inside the city today, little has changed since the aftermath of IS's overthrow. Basic services like running water or electricity have not yet returned. Military vehicles line the streets and in many neighborhoods the only signs of life are the freshly-painted checkpoints. As a military convoy rolled through a narrow residential street, a handful of children peeked out of garden gates. On one street corner a group of men sold cooking gas, and a local mosque handed out large bricks of ice and thin mattresses.

Basaad Jadoua, 58, along with her daughter, son and husband, had waited for days for security approval to return to the city that has been their family's home for generations. Squeezed into a microbus between tanks of water and bags of dried food stuffs, they drove along a debris-strewn road, past rows of looted shops, burnt-out government buildings and razed homes. They had brought the essentials with them, they said, because they had heard they were impossible to buy in Fallujah. — AP

MIGRANT PLIGHT TO GO ON DISPLAY

BERLIN: A people smugglers' car, a dinghy and a life jacket are among items related to Europe's migration crisis due to go on display at a German museum. One of the most powerful features of the forthcoming exhibition, according to Dietmar Preissler, head of collections at Bonn's Haus der Geschichte (House of History), will be a mural reproducing the most widely used image of the crisis—the body of Syrian toddler Aylan Kurdi after the little boy

was washed up on a Turkish beach.

The mural was painted by a Syrian refugee in a former supermarket converted into a hostel for asylum-seekers. The photograph, which went viral in September 2015, brought home the horrors of the migrant crisis to the world. The museum, which is now collecting items for the exhibition, said one refugee family has already provided clothing. It has also acquired a car used by people smugglers, and is seek-

ing to obtain an inflatable dinghy and a life-jacket.

Preissler said he hoped the museum would allow visitors 50 or 100 years from now to remember those who fled misery and war. A mobile phone is also on his wish-list. "Ideally it would be a phone with photos depicting their flight," he told DPA news agency on Thursday. Preissler said objects in the collection would be made available for temporary

exhibitions at other museums around the world. A spokeswoman told AFP the museum had only just begun collecting the items and had not yet set a date for the exhibition. Germany opened its doors to a million migrants last year. In 2015, almost 3,700 migrants, most of whom fled conflicts in Syria and other countries, drowned or went missing at sea, according to the International Organization for Migration. — AFP



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE: This file photo shows Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May (4R) speaking as she chairs a cabinet meeting sat next to British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson (R) at the Prime Minister's country retreat Chequers near the village of Ellesborough. — AFP

MAY'S CABINET SPLITS LEAVE WORLD GUESSING ON BREXIT

DELIBERATELY KEEPING THE PUBLIC MESSAGE VAGUE

LONDON: Divisions in Prime Minister Theresa May's Cabinet generated confusion over Brexit yesterday after a series of mixed messages on how and when Britain will leave the European Union. Following an interview with Sky News in which he said that Britain planned to begin formal Brexit talks early next year, Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson was quickly put in his place by May's office on Thursday. "The government's position has not changed—we will not trigger Article 50 before the end of 2016," a Downing Street spokesman said, referring to the EU treaty article outlining how a member state leaves.

May has deliberately kept the public message vague, saying only that "Brexit means Brexit", she is aiming for the "best deal" and would not provide any further commentary before Britain triggers the exit procedure. But it is clear that there are differences of opinion in her government between those who favor "hard" Brexit—quickly severing all links with EU institutions—and "soft" Brexit—which could

retain access to the single market. "Day after day after day, the differences and the nuances of difference between those who are at the top of the party and different ministers, and the prime minister, have become very, very clear," London School of Economics professor Tony Travers said.

The Spectator magazine's Tom Goodenough wrote: "By keeping shtum (quiet) about Brexit and pledging that there will be 'no running commentary' on Article 50, the prime minister may have saved herself the trouble of worrying about having to go back on her words. "But she has also created a Brexit vacuum. And it's no surprise that the likes of Boris are trying to fill the gap," he said. Former London mayor Johnson, once seen as a top contender to be prime minister, had already ruffled feathers in Downing Street when he appeared in a video by euro-skeptic pressure group "Change Britain". "Now more than ever, we need to show the British people that as politicians we are listening to what

they have to say," he said in the video message. "Brexit means Brexit and that means delivering on their instructions and restoring UK control over our laws, borders, money and trade," he said. Brexit minister David Davis was also rebuked this month for saying it was "very improbable" Britain would stay in the single market. "He's setting out his view that it's improbable," May's spokeswoman said afterwards, adding that the premier "recognizes that people have their differing views".

'All very difficult'

The three ministers with the biggest role to play in getting Britain out of the EU—Johnson, Davis and international trade minister Liam Fox—all favor a "hard" Brexit. This could see Britain leaving the single market and operate on World Trade Organization rules internationally, while also imposing strict curbs on immigration from the EU. The trio all campaigned for Britain to leave the EU in June's referendum and are regularly referred by British tabloids as the "Three Brexiteers". — AFP

DROP TRIAL AGAINST DUTCH ANTI-ISLAM MP: LAWYERS

SCHIPHOL: Lawyers for Dutch far-right MP Geert Wilders yesterday urged judges to drop an upcoming discrimination and hate speech case against the controversial politician, slamming it as a "political trial."

Wilders was appearing again before a top security court ahead of the start of his trial next month on charges of inciting racial hatred due to statements he made about Moroccans living in the Netherlands.

"Public prosecutors are asking the judges to hand down a political verdict," lawyer Geert-Jan Knoops told a three-judge bench at the preliminary hearing. "That's unacceptable and irresponsible... and will have far-reaching consequences for democracy in the Netherlands," he argued at the hearing, held in a fortress-like courthouse close to Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport.

'Political question doctrine'

Knoops drew on a US legal principle called the "political question doctrine" to underline his case, and argued that in his comments, Wilders had merely "put forward the political program of his party." The case focuses on comments made by the populist politician at a March 2014 local election rally.

Wilders asked supporters in The Hague whether they wanted "fewer or more Moroccans in your city and in the Netherlands?"

When the crowd shouted back "Fewer! Fewer!" a smiling Wilders answered: "We're going to organize that." The remark triggered 6,400 complaints from across the country, and Wilders even faced criticism from within his Freedom Party (PVV).

At least 56 people and five organizations have registered as victims of the comments and at least 34 witnesses have come forward ahead of a possible trial, judges said. Knoops said his client had a fundamental right to freedom of speech, particularly as a politician, adding his client "did not make the statement based on a racial prejudice."

Tight security

Security was tight yesterday, but Wilders, wearing a dark suit, white shirt and blue tie seemed relaxed and smiled at onlookers. Wilders is described as the "most heavily-guarded man" in the Netherlands. And since the 2004 assassination of anti-Islam director Theo van Gogh, he has had around-the-clock protection.

The outspoken politician has drawn heavy flack from fellow MPs after saying he would close all mosques and confiscate Korans—which he famously compares to Hitler's "Mein Kampf"—should he take power in the Netherlands. His party rode high in opinion polls as the migrant crisis polarized the country.

But in recent months, it has dropped back again ahead of general elections in March, in which observers say the outcome of his eventual trial could play an important role. If found guilty, Wilders could face up to two years in jail or a fine of more than 20,000 euros (\$22,000).

Wilders was acquitted during a first hate trial in 2011 which concluded his remarks targeted a religion and not a specific group of people. — AFP

INDIA BUYS 36 RAFALE JETS TO COUNTER CHINA

NEW DELHI: India signed a deal yesterday to buy 36 Rafale fighter jets for 7.9 billion euros (\$8.8 billion), France's biggest ever such sale, as it seeks to bolster its military against an increasingly assertive China. Defense experts say the aircraft, manufactured by France's Dassault, will bring a much needed boost to India's air force as it struggles to renew its Soviet-era military hardware. India, the world's top defense importer, is conducting a \$100-billion upgrade of its military hardware, facing border disputes with its northern and western neighbors, China and Pakistan.

"Rafale will significantly improve India's strike & defense capabilities," tweeted India's Defense Minister Manohar Parrikar shortly after signing the deal with his French counterpart Jean-Yves Le Drian. Yesterday's agreement follows years of tortuous negotiations and represents a substantial reduction from the 126 planes originally mooted. But it is still France's biggest ever aviation defense deal in financial terms and was hailed as a vote of confidence by French President Francois Hollande, whose administration has lobbied

heavily for the Rafale. "The agreement... is a mark of the recognition by a major military power of the operational performance, the technical quality and the competitiveness of the French aviation industry," he said in a statement. It is the biggest order for the Rafale after Egypt agreed to buy 24 of the jets in 2015 and Qatar purchased the same amount later that year.

'Flying coffins'

The highly versatile aircraft is currently being used for bombing missions over Syria and Iraq as part of an international campaign against the self-styled Islamic State jihadist group. It has also been deployed in the past for air strikes in Libya and Afghanistan. The first planes will be delivered in 2019 and the 36 jets will form two new squadrons of the Indian airforce, which is trying to renew its dwindling fleet of Russian MiG-21s-dubbed "Flying Coffins" because of their poor safety record.

The air force currently has around 32 squadrons, each comprising 18 aircraft, but has said it needs at

least 42 to protect its northern and western borders with Pakistan and China. India has signed a number of major defence deals since Hindu nationalist Prime Minister Narendra Modi took power in 2014. The Rafale purchase was first mooted under the previous administration in 2012, but faced major delays and obstacles over the last four years. India entered exclusive negotiations on buying 126 Rafale jets four years ago, but the number of planes was scaled back in talks over the cost and assembly of the planes in India. Modi announced on a visit to Paris last year that his government had agreed in principle to buy the jets as India looks to modernize its Soviet-era military.

But it continued to be held back by disagreements such as Delhi's insistence that arms makers invest a percentage of the value of any major deal in India, known as the offset clause. Hollande again pushed the deal on a visit to India in January, when he was Modi's guest for Republic Day celebrations, but officials privately acknowledged that price had become a sticking point. — AFP

CHINESE OUTRAGE OVER 'UGLY' RESTORATION OF GREAT WALL

'IF THIS IS THE RESULT, YOU MIGHT AS WELL HAVE JUST BLOWN IT UP'

BEIJING: Chinese social media users were in an uproar yesterday over restoration of a 700-year-old section of the Great Wall that has been covered in cement, turning it into a smooth, flat-topped path. Known as one of the most beautiful portions of the "wild", un-restored wall, the eight-kilometer Xiaohekou stretch in northeast Liaoning province was built in 1381 during the Ming Dynasty. Photos posted online showed that its uneven, crumbling steps, jagged walls and plant growth had been replaced as far as the eye could see with a white, concrete-like cap.

"This looks like the work of a group of people who didn't even graduate from elementary school," said one user of China's Twitter-like Weibo platform. "If this is the result, you might as well have just blown it up." "Such brutal treatment of the monuments left behind by our ancestors! How is it that people with low levels of cultural awareness can take on leadership positions?" asked another. "Why don't we just raze the Forbidden City in Beijing, too?"

Even the deputy director of Liaoning's department of culture Ding Hui admitted: "The repairs really are quite ugly," according to state broadcaster CCTV. Though the restoration was completed in 2014, photos of the work only went viral in recent days, with Chinese state media outlets quick to pile on scorn for what CCTV commentary called the "destructive repair".

'Fall to your death'

The Great Wall is not a single unbroken structure but stretches for thousands of kilometers in sections from China's east coast to the edge of the Gobi desert. In places it is so dilapidated that estimates of its total length vary from 9,000 to 21,000 kilometers, depending on whether missing sections are included. Despite its length it is not, as is sometimes claimed, visible from space. Emergency maintenance was ordered for Xiaohekou in 2012 to "avoid further damage and dissolution" caused by "serious structural problems and issues due to flooding", the State Administration of Cultural Heritage said in a statement on its



SUIZHONG: This picture taken on September 21, 2016 shows a villager walking on a paved-over section of the Great Wall of China. — AFP

website in response to public and media outcry. The government body has begun an investigation into the approval, implementation and outcome of the maintenance work, stating that it would deal with work units and personnel found to be at fault severely, "without justifying their mistakes". Local villagers living near the Xiaohekou section said tourist numbers had declined since the repairs were completed. "After tourists see it now, they say that there's already a lot of concrete in the city—there was no need to come all this way to see the Great Wall here," a villager said, according to the Chinese Business Morning News. "Now if it rains or snows, no one dares to climb the renovated wall," another explained. "If you're up on it and you slip, you'd fall to your death." China has made it a national imperative to improve protection of cultural relics, with President Xi

Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang both writing remarks in April calling for greater governmental efforts in conservation so that traditional Chinese culture could continue to inspire future generations, the official Xinhua news agency said.

Around 30 percent of China's Ming-era Great Wall has disappeared over time as adverse natural conditions and reckless human activities—including stealing the bricks to build houses—erode the UNESCO World Heritage site, state media reports said last summer. Under Chinese regulations people who take bricks from the Great Wall can be fined up to 5,000 yuan (\$750), according to the Global Times, but plant growth on the wall continues to accelerate decay, and tourism, especially to undeveloped sections, continues to severely damage the world's longest human construction. — AFP

RUSSIA, PAKISTAN TO HAVE JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE

ISLAMABAD: Russia and Pakistan will carry out their first joint military exercise this weekend, the Pakistani military said yesterday, at a time of heightened tensions between Islamabad and nuclear-armed rival India. The exercise is being seen as a demonstration of closer defense ties between the two countries after they signed a military cooperation pact in 2014. It comes after intense drills by the Pakistani Air Force (PAF) earlier this week that officials said had been long-planned, including landing combat aircraft on the Islamabad to Lahore motorway.

"A contingent of Russian ground forces arrived Pak(istan) for 1st ever Pak- Russian joint exercise from 24 September to 10 October 2016," military spokesman Lieutenant General Asim Bajwa tweeted Friday, without giving further details. Pakistani defense and security analyst Hasan Askari said the exercise "signifies Russian desire to expand their options in South Asia", adding it was the "natural" result of closer Indian ties with the US. Islamabad has also been negotiating with Moscow a deal to buy combat helicopters. "These helicopters were to be supplied this year but now they are likely to arrive in 2017," Askari said.

On Thursday the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) launched Highmark Exercise, shutting down sections of the motorway leading out of the capital to land "several" combat aircraft for the first time in six years, a senior security source told AFP. The drill came as India and Pakistan traded angry words over an attack on an Indian army base in disputed Kashmir that Delhi has blamed on Islamabad. But Pakistani officials said Highmark is a routine exercise, with a senior security official telling AFP that preparations—including setting the dates it would take place—had begun around one year ago.

The drill is aimed an enhancing "operational preparedness", the official said, and will continue for several weeks followed by months of evaluation. Earlier in the week the Pakistani military briefly closed airspace above the northern Gilgit-Baltistan region neighboring Kashmir. Foreign ministry spokesman Nafees Zakariya said in Islamabad Thursday the moves were regular and routine. Eighteen soldiers were killed in last Sunday's attack on an Indian army base in Kashmir, which was the worst of its kind to hit the divided Himalayan region in more than a decade, increasing hostility between the nuclear-armed neighbors. — AFP

COURT CLEARS PAIR OVER SCARLETT KILLING

MOTHER DEVASTATED, WILL CHALLENGE VERDICT

PANAJI: Two Indian men were cleared yesterday of the rape and homicide of 15-year-old British schoolgirl Scarlett Keeling whose bruised and semi-naked body was found on a Goa beach eight years ago. Friends and relatives of the two accused, Samson D'Souza and Placido Carvalho, cheered as the verdict was read out in a packed courtroom in the state capital Panaji. But Scarlett's mother Fiona MacKeown said she was devastated by the outcome and promised to fight to overturn the verdict.

"I am reeling. It's been eight years of agony. I feel devastated and will definitely be challenging the verdict," McKeown, who looked shell-shocked as the verdict was delivered, said outside the court. "We had been waiting all this time and it's just rubbish. India's whole judicial system has totally let me down," she told reporters. "Somebody murdered my daughter in this country and somebody must be held accountable."

D'Souza and Carvalho had been charged with culpable homicide not amounting to murder, using force with intent to outrage a woman's modesty and of administering drugs with intent to harm. But they both broke into smiles as Judge Vandana Tendulkar told the packed courtroom: "I find them not guilty of all charges." The softly-spoken judge's verdict was barely audible over the din of journalists and ceiling fans in the tiny courtroom which was painted pink.

The pony-tailed D'Souza was sitting just yards away from MacKeown when verdict was read while Carvalho sat behind her at the back of the courtroom. A stunned MacKeown



PANAJI: Fiona MacKeown, the mother of murdered British schoolgirl Scarlett Keeling, looks on as she leaves the Childrens Court. — AFP

had trouble leaving the courthouse as she had to cope with a media scrum as she was escorted out by her lawyer and an aide from the British High Commission.

Unwelcome spotlight

Scarlett's body was found on the popular Anjuna beach in the north of the small Indian tourist state, popular with Western hippies.

The teenager's death became international news, shining a spotlight on the seedy side of the resort destination and also drawing attention to India's sluggish justice system. Police initially dismissed her death as an accidental drowning but opened a murder investigation after MacKeown pushed for a second autopsy which proved she had been drugged and raped. It showed that Keeling had suffered

more than 50 injuries to her body. The trial began in 2010 but was dogged by numerous delays, including hearings of just one afternoon a month due to a backlog of cases and a public prosecutor withdrawing from proceedings. A key witness, Briton Michael Mannion, known as "Masala Mike", also refused to testify, dealing a huge blow to the prosecution's case. He had initially spoken of seeing D'Souza lying on top of Keeling on the beach shortly before she died.

Speaking to AFP on the eve of the verdict, MacKeown said she had been "devastated" by Mannion's decision not to testify, expressing fears that it could swing the outcome of the trial. "I felt we had a watertight case before then and without him it's made it a much more precarious balance about which way it might go," she said. MacKeown and her family were on a six-month holiday to India when she, Keeling and her other daughters went on an excursion to the southern state of Karnataka, but Keeling later returned alone to attend a party. Her body was found on the morning of February 18, 2008. Police alleged that D'Souza and Carvalho plied Keeling with a cocktail of drink and illegal drugs, including cocaine, before sexually assaulting her and leaving her to die by dumping her unconscious in shallow water where she drowned. They denied all the charges, claiming that the teenager died an accidental death after taking drugs of her own volition. India's Central Bureau of Investigation brought the case so it will now be up to them to decide whether to appeal the verdicts to the Goa bench of Mumbai's Bombay High Court. — AFP

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CHARLOTTE PROTESTERS HOLD PEACEFUL MARCH

CHARLOTTE: Protesters took to Charlotte's streets for a third straight night and defied a midnight curfew in the US city early yesterday, amid heavy security aimed at preventing more clashes over the fatal police shooting of a black man. Hundreds marched to the city police station carrying signs saying "Stop killing us" and "Resistance is beautiful," but the atmosphere was far calmer than the previous two nights.

Several hundred protesters remained on the street following the midnight (0400 GMT) curfew, but security forces took a hands off approach and did not enforce the restriction. Pressure is growing on police to release video of the shooting of Keith Lamont Scott, a 43-year-old African American, whose killing on Tuesday sparked the unrest. But members of Scott's family watched the footage Thursday, raising "more questions than answers," their lawyers said. Scott's death was the latest in a string of police-involved killings of black men that have fueled outrage across the United States. North Carolina's governor has declared a state of emergency in Charlotte, and several hundred National Guard troops and highway police officers were deployed to reinforce local police protecting city infrastructure and businesses. "We are going to be a lot more proactive," Charlotte Police Chief Kerr Putney told a news conference. "We made 44 arrests last night because we are not going to tolerate the behavior."

A protester shot by a civilian in Wednesday night's protests died in hospital on Thursday, local media reported. Protesters held an impromptu vigil on the sidewalk where the man was struck by a bullet from a shooter who remained at large. They lit candles and offered prayers.

Shooting video

Scott was shot and killed in an apartment complex parking lot on Tuesday during an encounter with police officers searching for another person wanted for arrest. Conflicting versions of what happened—police say Scott was armed with a handgun while his family says he was holding a book—fueled the angry protests. The authorities have so far refused to release police video of the incident. No gun is visible in the video, which shows Scott stepping backward when he was shot, one of the lawyers told CNN. "His hands are down by his side. He is acting calm," Justin Bamberg said. "You do see something in his hand, but it's impossible to make out from the video what it is." Putney has said a handgun was recovered at the scene, and that no book was found, contrary to the family's assertion.

The video footage "does not give me absolute definitive visual evidence that would confirm that a person is pointing a gun," he told CNN. But the footage indicates the officer identified as having shot Scott—Brentley Vinson, who is also black—was justified, he added. "The officer perceived his failure to comply with commands, failure to drop the weapon and facing the officers as an imminent threat," he told Fox News.

Protesters 'seething'

A handful of protesters confronted police on Thursday night. However, many marched past officers who posed a less intimidating presence on the streets despite their greater numbers. "Black lives don't matter in this country," said a 34-year-old protester with a mask around his neck who identified himself only as Amen-Ra. "We're coming together to make them matter, to force America to make them matter—either through violence or peacefully." Scott's shooting came on the heels of another fatal police shooting of a black man, Terence Crutcher, in Tulsa, Oklahoma yesterday. Tulsa authorities on Thursday charged the police officer who killed Crutcher with first-degree manslaughter. In Charlotte, pressure to release the police video mounted, including from leading opinion makers like the local Charlotte Observer and The New York Times.

"There is no legal reason to withhold the video from the public, and in this fraught situation, the best way to allay the community's distrust is complete transparency," the New York daily wrote on Friday. The troubles in Charlotte reverberated on the US presidential campaign trail, with Republican candidate Donald Trump suggesting that drug use in the inner city was somehow responsible. "And if you're not aware, drugs are a very, very big factor in what you're watching on television at night," he said during a speech in Pittsburgh. — AFP



BERLIN: A woman attends a protest where they are tearing down a so called 'Trump's wall of hate' as part of a demonstration against US Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump at the Pariser Platz. — AP

TRUMP WALKS LINE BETWEEN LAW, EMPATHY FOR BLACKS

CRITICIZES VIOLENT PROTESTS FROM POLICE SHOOTING

PITTSBURGH: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump is seeking to show law-and-order toughness along with empathy for African-Americans as he criticizes violent protests stemming from another fatal police shooting of a black man. His Democratic opponent, Hillary Clinton, was behind closed doors as she prepared for their initial debate and did not address on Thursday the escalating racial tensions in Charlotte, North Carolina. The city was under a midnight curfew after two previous nights of chaotic protests that led to one death as well as injuries, arrests and vandalism.

Trump has spent the last several weeks asking black Americans for their support and asserting that President Barack Obama has failed the black community, but those appeals have been undermined at times. On Thursday, the Trump campaign accepted the resignation of an Ohio volunteer, Mahoning County chair Kathy Miller, who told the Guardian newspaper, "I don't think there was any racism until Obama got elected." Trump himself sent a mixed and at times unclear message that could rankle African-Americans even as he called for a nation united in "the spirit of togetherness." "The rioting in our streets

is a threat to all peaceful citizens and it must be ended and ended now," the New York businessman declared at a rally in suburban Philadelphia on Thursday night. He added: "The main victims of these violent demonstrations are law-abiding African-Americans who live in these communities and only want to raise their children in safety and peace."

'Poisoning youth'

Earlier in the day, however, Trump seemed to suggest that protesters outraged by the police shootings of black men were under the influence of drugs. "I will stop the drugs from flowing into our country and poisoning our youth and many other people," he said during an appearance at an energy conference in Pittsburgh. He added, "And if you're not aware, drugs are a very, very big factor in what you're watching on television at night."

Trump's campaign said he was referring to news reports about the recent increase in drug-related deaths, not the protests seen on cable news the last few nights. On Wednesday, Trump seemed to call for the national expansion of "stop-and-frisk," a police tactic that has been condemned as racial profiling. He clarified on Thursday that he had been

referring only to murder-plagued Chicago. Clinton has made curbing gun violence and police brutality central to her candidacy. She said Wednesday that the shooting in North Carolina and a fatal shooting of a black man by a white police officer in Tulsa, Oklahoma, had added two more names "to a long list of African-Americans killed by police officers. It's unbearable and it needs to become intolerable." The Tulsa officer has since been charged with first-degree manslaughter.

At his evening rally Thursday, Trump accused Clinton of supporting - "with a nod" - "the narrative of cops as a racist force in our society." "Those peddling the narrative ... share directly in the responsibility for the unrest that is afflicting our country and hurting those who have really the very least," he said. As she prepared for their debate Monday night, Clinton used humor to poke at her opponent by appearing on comic Zach Galifianakis' web program, "Between Two Ferns."

The comedian asked her what Trump might wear. "I assume he'll wear that red power tie," Clinton said. Galifianakis responded, "Or maybe like a white power tie." "That's even more appropriate," Clinton said. — AP



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HONG KONG: An elderly man watches a Star Ferry (back Center) sailing across Victoria Harbour in Hong Kong yesterday. — AFP

SAUDIS OFFER OIL CUT IF IRAN FREEZES OUTPUT RIYADH SEEKS OPEC DEAL TO CURTAIL SUPPLY, BOOST PRICES

DUBAI/LONDON: Saudi Arabia has offered to reduce oil production if rival Iran caps its own output this year, four sources familiar with the discussions told Reuters as Riyadh seeks an OPEC deal to curtail supply and boost prices. The offer, which has yet to be accepted or rejected by Tehran, was made this month, the sources told Reuters on condition of anonymity.

OPEC holds an informal meeting next week in Algiers, which non-OPEC Russia will also join. The group, which produces a third of the world's oil, will also have a formal gathering in Vienna at the end of November. Riyadh is ready to cut output to levels seen early this year in exchange for Iran freezing production at the current level, which is 3.6 million barrels per day (bpd), the sources said.

"They (the Saudis) are ready for a cut but Iran has to agree to freeze," one source said. Three more sources confirmed the offer was presented to Tehran. A source familiar with Iranian thinking declined to comment on details of the proposal but did not rule out a compromise next week: "Let them all talk face

to face." There was no official comment from Saudi Arabia or Iran. A source familiar with Saudi oil thinking said: "Our goal is to reach a consensus and look at different scenarios for the production levels of the OPEC countries."

"We are looking forward to a credible and transparent solution which would lead to market stability," that source said, adding that the informal OPEC meeting would hopefully help build consensus before the formal gathering in November.

SEEKING CONSENSUS

Saudi output usually drops in winter and spikes during hot summer months, hence Iran could dismiss the proposed reduction as an attempt by Riyadh to present a natural decline as a cut. Iran has been promising to boost output to 4 million bpd, although production has stagnated in the past three months at around 3.6 million bpd, indicating the new push might be difficult without additional investments.

The first source did not say by how much Riyadh would cut if Iran agreed to a freeze.

The Algerian oil minister said this month that OPEC would need to reduce supply by around 1 million barrels per day to help rebalance the market. Riyadh's production has spiked since June due to summer demand, reaching a record high in July of 10.67 million bpd and edging down to 10.63 million bpd in August. From January to May, Saudi Arabia produced around 10.2 million bpd.

Previously, the Saudis have refused to discuss a production cut. OPEC officials from Saudi Arabia and Iran met this week in Vienna. According to sources, they did not discuss the Saudi proposal, focusing instead on baseline production figures.

The meeting produced no breakthrough, the sources said. The source familiar with Saudi thinking said it would nevertheless help build consensus. Two sources said Saudi Arabia's Gulf OPEC allies the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Kuwait were expected to contribute to any output reduction.

Saudi Arabia, by far the largest producer in the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, will shoulder the biggest cut, the

sources said. The proposal can be seen as a shift by Riyadh, which orchestrated the current OPEC policy in 2014 by refusing to cut output alone to support prices and chose to defend market share against rivals, particularly high-cost producers.

A fall in oil prices to \$30-\$50 per barrel from levels as high as \$115 seen in June 2014 led to a boost in global oil demand and a decline in high-cost supplies such as those from the United States.

But the Saudi strategy caused a rift in OPEC, whose poorer members have faced a budget crisis and unrest. Riyadh and its Gulf allies also had to tighten their belts after a decade of generous public spending. As the pain of cheap oil grew and pressures on Saudi finances increased, Riyadh and Tehran signalled they were willing to show more flexibility to prop up prices.

However, the first attempt at a global production pact collapsed in April when Riyadh insisted Tehran participate. Iran has said it will not join any such agreement until it boosts output to pre-sanctions levels. — Reuters



KUALA LUMPUR: A worker stands next to bags of onions for sale at a wholesale market in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. — AFP

EUROZONE GROWTH SLOWS TO 20-MONTH LOW: SURVEY

BRUSSELS: Eurozone economic growth has slowed to its weakest pace since January 2015, a closely watched survey showed yesterday. Data monitoring company IHS Markit said its September report was "disappointing," with the underlying performance sluggish and the authorities needing to do more to bolster activity.

IHS Markit said its preliminary September Composite Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) for the eurozone fell to 52.6 points from 52.9 points in August. The PMI measures companies' readiness to spend on their business and so gives a good idea of how the underlying economy is performing.

Any reading above 50 points indicates the economy is expanding. Broken down, the September services sector PMI came in at 52.1 points, down from 52.8 in August and hitting a 21-month low.

The service sector typically accounts for around two-thirds of economic activity in a developed economy. In contrast, the manufacturing PMI in September rose to 52.6 points from 51.7 in August to hit a 3-month high. Senior IHS Markit Economist Rob Dobson said the report showed the "eurozone economy ended the third quarter on a disappointing note."

Underlying growth was sluggish at about 0.3 percent for the quarter, Dobson said, and "it remains clear that the economic upturn is still fragile and failing to achieve any real traction." With inflation low, "the door remains open for policymakers to provide further policy support later in the year if they see economic conditions moderate further," he said.

The 19-nation eurozone economy grew 0.3 percent in the three months to June, down sharply from 0.6 percent in the first quarter. The eurozone economy has been bumping along for years in a subdued recovery from the 2008 global crash and ensuing debt crisis.

Governments adopted tough austerity policies to ease debt but that dampened growth, prompting the European Central Bank to step into the breach with massive stimulus programs. The results so far have been disappointing, with the ECB under pressure to do more. — AFP

DOLLAR RISES ON FED OFFICIAL'S COMMENT

NEW YORK: The dollar index edged higher yesterday, reversing earlier selling, after Boston Federal Reserve President Eric Rosengren said he believed US short-term interest rates should be raised now and warned a decline in the jobless rate below sustainable levels could derail economic recovery. Rosengren was one of three members of the Federal Open Market Committee to dissent at this week's policy meeting that left rates unchanged at a range of 0.25 to 0.50 percent.

Rosengren was joined in his dissent by Kansas City Fed President Esther George and Cleveland Fed President Loretta Mester, and his was the first public comment from the three who expressed favor for raising rates. "Given the lack of information and the lack of news in the market, you hear (from Rosengren) and it's enough to move markets a bit," said Douglas Borthwick, managing director at Chapdelaine Foreign Exchange. "We're dealing with a market today that's very quiet."

Borthwick added that the dollar's

rise may also be due to investors squaring positions ahead of Monday night's US presidential debate between Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton.

The dollar index was last up 0.1 percent at 95.531. It had earlier fallen as low as 95.340 and was on track for its worst week in a month. Sterling fell 1 percent against the dollar, sliding below \$1.30, weighed by further Brexit uncertainty after comments from UK Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson, who said Thursday that the government was in talks to leave the European Union as soon as next year.

The pound had jumped back over \$1.31 on Thursday, after Bank of England policymaker Kristen Forbes said she saw no case for a further cut in interest rates, after the Bank slashed them to a record low of 0.25 percent last month. Sterling hit a three-decade low below \$1.28 in the wake of Britain's shock Brexit vote but had climbed about 5 percent as of early September as data showed the economy holding up relatively well. — Reuters

SAUDI AIRLINES BUYS 63 AIRCRAFT IN FLEET EXPANSION

DOHA: Saudi Arabian Airlines (Saudia) will acquire 63 aircraft as part of a fleet modernization program, a top executive was quoted as saying yesterday by state news agency SPA.

The airline will acquire 15 Boeing B777-300ER, 13 Boeing B787 Dreamliners and 35 Airbus A320 and A321neo, said Director-general Saleh bin Nasser Al-Jasser. Saudi Arabia's air travel industry is benefiting from strong population growth and rising incomes since the country announced in 2012 that it would liberalize its domestic aviation market.

At present the state-owned carrier's only domestic competitor is budget carrier flynas. In 2015 Saudia said it would raise the number of its planes to 200 from 119 and add new international and domestic routes. — Reuters

BRITISH GOVT SUFFERS FIRST RESIGNATION UNDER MAY

LONDON: British Prime Minister Theresa May's government suffered its first resignation yesterday when a former Goldman Sachs chief economist closely associated with the policies of her predecessor David Cameron quit.

Lord Jim O'Neill, who had worked on boosting Chinese investment in Britain and a flagship project to bolster the economy in northwest England, stepped down as a junior Treasury minister. He had reportedly threatened to quit in July after May announced a review of whether to go ahead with the Hinkley Point nuclear plant, a key Chinese investment in Britain's economy.

The government gave the go-ahead for the controversial development last week with new conditions attached. In his resignation letter, O'Neill said he joined the government of Cameron—who left office in July after Britain voted to leave the EU—"for the specific purpose of helping deliver the Northern Powerhouse, and to help boost our economic ties with key growing economies around the world, especially China and India".

"I am pleased that, despite speculation to the contrary, both appear to be commanding your personal attention," he added. Cameron himself stepped down as a backbench lawmaker this month amid reports he was unhappy with May's decision to allow the creation of academically selective state-funded schools, a policy he had always opposed. — AFP



LONDON: Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne (R) sharing a light moment with Commercial Secretary to the Treasury Jim O'Neill (L) as they witness a signing ceremony. Lord Jim O'Neill, who had worked on boosting Chinese investment in Britain and a flagship project to bolster the economy in northwest England, stepped down as a junior Treasury minister. — AFP

EU-US TRADE PACT UNDER A CLOUD

EUROPE MULLS CHANGE OF TACK

BRUSSELS: The outlook for a vast free trade pact between the European Union and the United States was bleak yesterday, with EU ministers discussing whether to change their approach after conceding that a deal cannot be sealed before President Barack Obama leaves office. After three years of negotiations, big differences remain over the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, which is meant to lift trade barriers between the world's biggest commercial partners, spark sorely-needed economic growth and create new jobs. "Completion of the negotiations with the US by the end of this year is not realistic. So it is not realistic to reach final agreement by the end of President Obama's administration," Slovak Economy Minister Peter Ziga, whose country holds the EU's rotating presidency, told reporters after informal trade talks in Bratislava.

"We've had negotiations for three years and no chapter out of 30 chapters has been closed," Ziga said. "It will take a lot of time to get there." TTIP, as the potential deal is known, is aimed at removing barriers to trade between the EU and the US to boost economic growth and employment. The European Commission estimates that

the pact could boost EU economic output by 119 billion euros (\$133 billion) a year and that of the U.S. economy by 95 billion euros (\$106 billion).

Thousands of people have demonstrated against the pact in Germany and Belgium over the last week. They fear the agreement is a threat to the environment and public health, and would give more power to big multinational companies. Still, European officials were keen to seal a deal on TTIP before Obama leaves office in January. Looming elections in France and Germany are also weighing on the negotiations. A new round of talks is scheduled for early October, but few hold hopes for a breakthrough. "I don't necessarily see it as the last one but let's see how far we get," EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmstroem said. Given the public opposition and slow pace of progress, some think now is a good time to pause and consider a fresh approach once it's clear who will hold office in the White House from next year. "It would be reasonable, given that the subject has such a negative connotation now, to completely relaunch with a new name after the US elections, with more trans-



BRUSSELS: Protestors hold an Anti-TTIP inflatable banner during a demonstration against international trade agreements in Brussels. —AP

parency and clearer objectives," said Austrian Economy Minister Reinhold Mitterlehner.

In contrast, good progress has been made on the trade deal with Canada, known as CETA. Malmstroem's office will draw up a joint declaration to annex to the agreement to explain some elements, like public services as well as invest-

ment protection and arbitration. The plan is to sign the agreement at the EU-Canada summit in Brussels on Oct. 27-28. "The Americans have not been willing to make offers the way Canada has so it's guaranteed there will be no agreement this year," said German Economy Minister and Vice Chancellor Sigmar Gabriel. — AP



BERLIN: Jens Weidmann, President of the Deutsche Bank, Michel Sapin, France's Finance and Economy Minister, Sigmar Gabriel, German Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy, Wolfgang Schaeuble, German Finance Minister, Christophe Sirugue, State Secretary of the France's Economy Ministry and Francois Villeroy de Galhau, Governor of the Bank of France, from left, pose for the media as part of a meeting of the German and French Economy and Finance council in Berlin. —AP

IMF PAINTS DARK OUTLOOK FOR GREEK JOBSEEKERS

FUND PUSHES FOR MORE GREEK DEBT RELIEF

ATHENS: The International Monetary Fund is painting a bleak outlook for bailout-dependent Greece, where it expects unemployment to stay in the double digits for more than three decades. An IMF annual report yesterday also calls for further debt relief from the country's European creditors going "well beyond" extant proposals if the country's debt mountain is to become sustainable.

Greece's economy is under constant scrutiny from its bailout creditors, the IMF and European governments and institutions. The left-led government is in negotiations with bailout inspectors on the course of mandated reforms, whose completion would allow release of a 2.8 billion euro (\$3.14 billion) rescue loan installment. The country has depended on bailouts since 2010, in return implementing successive spend-

ing cuts and reforms that improved fiscal stewardship but left Greek society in tatters.

The International Monetary Fund yesterday called on the European Union to grant Greece additional debt relief and soften its demands for budgetary efforts. Even if Athens fully respects a prescribed program of austerity and reforms, the IMF said in an annual report on the Greek economy, the government will still require a reduction of its debt mountain.

"Even with full implementation of this demanding policy agenda, Greece requires substantial debt relief calibrated on credible fiscal and growth targets," the IMF said. "The authorities' current targets remain unrealistic," it said, referring to an objective set by the EU that Greece must generate a budgetary surplus of 3.5 percent of gross domestic

product (GDP), excluding debt servicing, by 2018. Double-digit unemployment rates projected to last until the middle of the century mean Greece cannot be expected to achieve high growth rates and a budgetary surplus of this magnitude at the same time, it said.

"In this context, it cannot be assumed that Greece can simply grow out of its debt problem. Further debt relief will be required to restore sustainability, going well beyond what is currently under consideration, and it should be calibrated on realistic assumptions about Greece's ability to generate sustained surpluses and long-term growth," the report said.

Cash-strapped Greece will adopt before month's end a new package of measures designed to mollify EU and IMF creditors, Athens' finance ministry said last Friday. — AP

TAIWAN'S SUMMER SLUMP AS CHINESE VISITORS STAY AWAY

TAIPEI: Taiwan's tourism sector suffered the worst summer in 13 years due to a slump in Chinese visitors, officials said yesterday, as ties with Beijing deteriorate. It was the island's weakest August performance since an outbreak of the killer respiratory disease SARS in 2003. Taiwan saw a boom in mainland tourists under former Beijing-friendly president Ma Ying-jeou, with Chinese visitors accounting for about 40 percent of the total 10 million visitors in 2015.

But since Beijing-sceptic President Tsai Ing-wen was elected in January, relations have turned frosty and the number of Chinese tourists coming to Taiwan has dropped, with speculation Beijing is turning off the taps as a means of pressuring Tsai. Taiwan is self-ruling but China still sees it as part of its territory.

Beijing wants Tsai to acknowledge there is only "one China", as did her predecessor Ma, paving the way for eight years of rapprochement and trade deals. In August, the total number of tourists to Taiwan fell 3.4 percent to 863,540 from last year, despite a 30-40 percent increase in Japanese and Korean tourists, the Tourism Bureau said.

"It was the first monthly decrease this year and the first decrease for August peak summer time since 2003, when Taiwan's tourism was hit by a SARS outbreak," said Lynn Lin, deputy director of the bureau's planning division. Chinese visitors fell 32.4 percent to around 248,600 from August 2015, including a nearly 55 percent decline in group tourists, according to the bureau.

Local tourism operators have said the industry is in crisis, with hotels only half-full and thousands of tour buses sitting idle. Observers believe the decline is due to China limiting tour groups to Taiwan amid rapidly cooling relations under Tsai's government.

The island's tourism sector was also badly hit when a deadly bus crash in July killed an entire tour group from China's northeastern city of Dalian. More than 10,000 tourism industry workers took to the streets of Taipei earlier this month to demand the government address their woes, including offering tax reductions, extending loan deadlines and reducing or waiving visa fees for Chinese tourists. The cabinet has announced Tw\$30 billion (\$955 million) in loans to the tourism industry, although it has denied it is a "rescue package" to offset the Chinese tourist slump, instead framing it as helping the industry upgrade. — AP

LIBYAN SOVEREIGN FUND RECOVERS \$127M FROM LEHMAN, CORNHILL CAPITAL

LONDON: Libya's \$67 billion sovereign wealth fund has recovered \$73 million from the bankrupt Lehman Brothers and \$53.8 million from Cornhill Capital after lengthy legal battles, the fund said in a statement. The Libyan Investment Authority (LIA) is involved in a number of disputes with Western firms, not least its \$3.3 billion claims against investment banks Goldman Sachs and Societe Generale, which are being pursued in London courts. The dispute with Lehman stems from the collapse of the Wall Street giant in 2008. The LIA invested at least \$200 million in a Lehman structured product at a time when the country was still ruled by Muammar Gaddafi. After Lehman filed for bankruptcy in September 2008, the LIA attempted to recover as much as possible of its investment.

As part of the process of receiving funds back

from the administrators, some \$73 million has now been recovered, paid in instalments to an LIA account. Lehman's administrators attempt to make payouts to different tranches of Lehman creditors via applications to the courts. The LIA has also recovered \$53.8 million after a three-year battle with UK-based Cornhill Capital over an investment in the latter's Bermuda-domiciled Cornhill Natural Resources Fund.

In October 2013, the LIA tried to withdraw what remained from an initial investment of \$100 million, a person with knowledge of the situation said.

However, Cornhill Capital delayed making a redemption on the grounds that to do so would violate international sanctions, the LIA said in a statement. The United Nations Security Council had imposed an asset freeze on the LIA in 2011 to prevent

the country's wealth being spirited away after the fall of Gaddafi. A substantial portion of the LIA's assets remain frozen, but the redemption proceeds from Cornhill have now been paid into a sanctioned account, the LIA said in the statement.

Cornhill Capital declined to comment. The leadership of the LIA is contested by multiple individuals. One of these, AbdulMagid Breish, who was appointed LIA chairman in June 2013, said the decision in the Cornhill case was "an encouraging result". He added that the LIA would continue to press for greater recoveries from Lehman. The LIA is awaiting a judgment in its case against Goldman Sachs, which ran for seven weeks in June and July. The trial date for the lawsuit against Societe Generale was pushed back until April 2017 under a judge's ruling in July. — Reuters

REGULATORS SEEK MONTE DEI PASCHI TO ASK ITALY FOR HELP

LONDON: European regulators expect Italian bank Monte dei Paschi di Siena will have to turn to the government for support, three eurozone officials with knowledge of the matter said, although Rome would strongly resist such a move if bondholders suffered losses.

Less than two months after the Tuscan lender announced an emergency plan to raise 5 billion euros of fresh capital, having come last in a health check of 51 European banks, there is growing concern among European regulators that the cash bid will fall short. While the bank is determined to see through the capital raising, if it were to disappoint, it would be left with a capital hole. Now euro zone authorities are considering whether state support would have to be tapped after what bankers have described as slack interest in the bank's share offer.

"There is clearly an execution risk to the capital raising," said one official with knowledge of the rescue attempt, adding that the bank's value, about one ninth the size of the planned 5 billion euro cash call, would be a turn-off for investors. That person said a "precautionary recapitalisation by the Italian state" could be used to make up any shortfall once attempts to raise fresh cash from investors had concluded in the coming months.

Monte dei Paschi declined to comment. The Italian treasury did not want to comment for this story. A spokesman for Prime Minister Matteo Renzi said he was not aware of any expectations among European regulators that Monte dei Paschi may turn to the state for help.

Monte dei Paschi faces a considerable challenge in convincing investors to back its third recapitalisation in as many years. Further complicating the picture, a constitutional referendum, expected to be held by early December that could decide the future of Renzi, is likely to push the bank's fundraising into next year, the officials say.

The bank's fragile state poses a threat to confidence in other Italian lenders and even to heavily-indebted Italy, the eurozone's third-largest economy. Renzi and his economy minister, Pier Carlo Padoan, have said in recent days Monte dei Paschi's capital raising will be successful. Sources close to the consortium of banks that have made a preliminary commitment to underwrite the 5 billion euro privately-backed cash call dismissed suggestions it may fall short as "nonsense."

Reopening the question of state support, which had already been explored and dropped because of the losses it requires for bondholders under European bank crisis rules, is politically charged, and would reignite a dispute between Italy and Germany.

Berlin had objected to Rome's efforts to back the struggling bank without imposing a loss on its bondholders, according to another senior official. But while some in the German government argue that Italian savers are wealthy enough to shoulder the bank's problems, Rome wants to spare both institutional investors and ordinary Italians who have tied up their money in its bonds at all costs. Renzi's government fears that hitting bondholders would be extremely unpopular and could trigger a wider confidence crisis in the Italian banking system.

Those tensions were visible recently when Renzi took a public swipe at Germany, telling its central bank chief Jens Weidmann to fix the problems of its own banks which he said had "hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of billions of euros of derivatives". — Reuters



HONG KONG: In this picture taken on Thursday, commuters ride the Star Ferry across Victoria Harbour from Hong Kong island (L) to Kowloon. — AFP

NIGERIA HUNTS DOWN 700,000 COMPANIES IN TAX CRACKDOWN

COUNTRY SEEKS NEW REVENUE SOURCES TO OFFSET OIL SLUMP

ABUJA: Nigeria has hunted down 700,000 firms that have never paid taxes as the country seeks new revenue sources to offset low oil prices that have pushed Africa's biggest economy into its first recession in more than 20 years, its tax chief said. Tunde Fowler, executive chairman of the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS), said in a rare interview that he also expected 10 million individuals to be discovered by December and made to pay taxes for the first time. The OPEC member slid into recession in the second quarter and militant attacks on oil facilities in its Niger Delta region have cut crude production, which provides 70 percent of government revenues, by around a third.

Planned loan deals with foreign lenders have yet to materialize, prompting the leader of the Senate to speak of an "economic emergency". The government, struggling to fund a record 6.06 trillion naira (\$18.6 billion) 2016 budget that aims to stimulate growth by tripling capital expenditure, set FIRS a target of raising 4.95 trillion naira in taxes, up from 3.73 trillion last year.

Persuading Nigerians to pay tax is no

easy task. FIRS does not appear to be on track to meet its target for tax collection so far this year, but experts believe it can do better in future.

"We collected a little over 2.3 trillion, so far - from January to 31 August. It is almost at par with last year but take into consideration that the economy is going through a little slowdown," said Fowler.

He said revenue from value-added tax (VAT) had increased by 25 percent year-on-year and corporate income tax held steady over the same period but petroleum profit tax was expected to have halved, mainly due to low oil prices. Fowler, appointed last year after a stint as tax chief in Lagos where monthly tax revenues surged by 70 percent in the four years to December 2012, said FIRS expects to generate 5.2 trillion naira in 2017.

HI-TECH INSPECTORS

The tax chief said a new unit created at the start of the year had deployed inspectors armed with laptops to update databases, registering businesses and individuals who are then tracked to check whether they have paid taxes-

business executives say they get "aggressive" visits from tax inspectors.

"We have been able to add about 700,000 companies and we expect to add about 10 million individuals across the nation (by December)," said Fowler, adding that this would bring the total of registered individuals to 20 million. John Ashbourne, Africa analyst at Capital Economics, said Fowler's target of doubling the number of tax payers was "ambitious" and would be hard to achieve in a country where "paperwork is often lacking". But he said the projections for 2017 were "quite achievable". "Revenue will almost certainly be much, much higher next year, but this is primarily due to the devaluation of the naira, which has boosted the local-terms value of each oil barrel that is exported," he said. Even a doubling of the number of individuals paying taxes in Africa's most populous nation of 180 million inhabitants, where 80 percent of the workforce is employed in the informal sector, leaves FIRS with an uphill struggle. "From our estimates, we expect that we have 60 million individuals who should pay some form or level of tax," said Fowler. — Reuters

GOLD HEADS FOR BEST WEEK IN TWO MONTHS AS FED FEARS FADE

LONDON: Gold edged back towards the previous session's two-week highs yesterday and stayed on track for its biggest weekly gain in two months, after the Federal Reserve sounded a cautious note on the pace of interest rate hikes.

The Fed signalled an increasingly careful approach to future rate hikes after a policy meeting on Wednesday, reassuring investors who had feared the US central bank could move more quickly to tighten monetary policy. Gold is highly sensitive to rising US interest rates, as these increase the opportunity cost of holding non-yielding bullion, while boosting the dollar, in which it is priced.

Spot gold was up 0.1 percent at \$1,337.83 an ounce at 1140 GMT, and was nearly 2 percent higher on the week. ING analyst Hamza Khan said the Fed had been following a pattern of talking up a rate cut ahead of its policy meetings, but failing to deliver.

"That's the sort of environment where gold will flourish, because it creates uncertainty, and it keeps rates low," he said. "The rest of the world has also been quite healthy (for gold) — we've had dovish signals from the Bank of Japan, and we've seen ETF holdings beginning to recover."

Holdings of the world's largest gold-backed exchange-traded fund, New York-list-

ed SPDR Gold Shares, rose another 6.5 tonnes on Thursday, data from the fund showed.

A steadier tone to the dollar after hefty losses earlier this week pulled gold back from the previous session's peak of \$1,343.64, however. The dollar stabilized against a basket of currencies.

Stock markets, despite some weakness yesterday, were also on course for their biggest weekly gain in two months after a week of central bank meetings that left investors still unconvinced of US policymakers' intent to put an end to an era of ultra-low interest rates. "The ongoing strength in the global equity markets and some signs of sta-

bilisation in the dollar could both start chipping away at gold's underlying strength," INTL FCStone analyst Edward Meir said in a note. US gold futures for December delivery were down \$3.10 an ounce at \$1,341.60. Silver was 0.1 percent lower at \$19.82, but was the biggest riser this week among the main precious metals, climbing more than 5 percent, the most since the week ending July 1. Palladium was up 0.2 percent at \$694.25, after rising 1.5 percent on Thursday. Platinum was 0.3 percent higher at \$1,055.50 an ounce. On a weekly basis, it was up 4 percent, snapping seven straight weeks of losses. — Reuters

HUNGARY'S ORBANOMICS STARTS TO YIELD RESULTS

ENTREPRENEURS WORRIED ABOUT LABOR SHORTAGE

BUDAPEST: Attila Behovits launched his street food business during hard times for Hungary but four years on, the economy - like demand for his traditional spicy sausages - is growing well. Entrepreneurs like Behovits still believe the country lacks innovative ideas and bemoan a labor shortage as young Hungarians keep heading abroad for a better life.

Nevertheless, "Orbanomics" - Prime Minister Viktor Orban's controversial form of shock therapy - is paying off. The sharp economic contraction of 2012 has turned into a solid expansion, the budget deficit is under control and Hungary is regaining its investment grade credit ratings. Behovits's business of selling mini sausages and toppings stuffed into a cone-shaped bun, called "kolbice", has grown exponentially in parallel as Hungarians have started spending again after severe belt-tightening following the 2008 global financial crisis. "Kolbice was my idea, as I go to festivals a lot, and we could see that the sausage and bread combo is always popular," Behovits said at his restaurant in one of Budapest's magnificent 19th century market halls.

Annual turnover at his company, Kobe Sausages, already exceeds 100 million forints (\$365,000), and it is expanding a franchise network in Poland, the Czech Republic, Romania and Austria. A mechanical engineer by training, 45-year-old Behovits also manages several other firms.

Orban embarked on his independent policy course shortly after coming to power in 2010. He imposed big windfall taxes on banks, energy, telecoms and retail firms and nationalised private pension savings of 3 trillion forints (\$11 billion). Such unorthodox measures upset investors and brought him into conflict with the European Union, the International Monetary Fund and financial markets, but they also reined in the budget deficit.

After rating the country's debt as "junk" for five years, two of the three main credit agencies upgraded Hungary, once called the "sick man of Europe," to investment grade this year, recognising for the first time that Orbanomics had worked. Last week's upgrade by Standard and Poor's, which

markets had not expected so soon, drove yields on Hungarian 10-year bonds below those of Poland this week. Analysts expect more investors to pile money into Hungarian assets in the short run.

STABILITY VS COMPETITIVENESS

The budget deficit is now below the EU ceiling of 3 percent of GDP, public debt is declining and the current account is running a huge surplus. The economy grew about 3 percent last year, helped by billions of euros of EU development funds. By shifting financing to forint-denominated debt sales, Hungary's reliance on foreign currency debt and foreign investors has decreased. And after squeezing the banks for years, Orban started to cut the bank tax this year, improving investors' mood. "If we look from the stability perspective ... the Hungarian economy is less vulnerable now than it was before the crisis, so from that perspective Hungarian economic policy was successful," David Nemeth, an analyst at K&H Bank said. But the problems are not over. "On the competitiveness rankings, Hungary is well behind the regional competitors," said Nemeth.

In the World Economic Forum's 2015-2016 Global Competitiveness Report, Hungary ranked 63rd, behind Poland, the Czech Republic and Romania. The volume of investments in Hungary fell by an annual 20.3 percent in the second quarter, the steepest decline since early 2012, due to EU-financed investments coming to a close.

This shows how much the economy still depends on funding from the EU - with which Orban has had a succession of disputes including over the refugee crisis and constitutional reform.

Small firms like Behovits's street food business are labouring under from Europe's highest value-added tax rate of 27 percent. Banks have tightened credit conditions, while venture capital financing is expensive, although a massive central bank loan program has helped. VAT on restaurants, internet connections and basic foodstuffs will drop to 18 percent next year but companies still complain about excessive bureaucracy, a lack of transparency and corruption in the state sector.

The government is reluctant to cut the main VAT rate but has promised a reduction in social taxes on jobs. "In the coming years, the government will strive to further reduce the size of tax and social contributions burdening the economy," Economy Minister Mihaly Varga said on Thursday.

EXODUS

Hungary has attracted foreign investors partly because wages are low compared with in Western Europe but Behovits believes this model is at risk. He says the main problems for the economy are a growing labour shortage, which is putting upwards pressure on pay, and a lack of innovative ideas in an emerging economy dominated by multinational firms, mainly big German car makers.

"It would be very important to have many more domestic innovations, home-grown firms which develop innovative products of their own," he said. "Our big competitive advantage is wages ... but now that we face a big shortage of labour, this is under pressure, wages will rise."

Families' tax burdens have decreased as Orban has introduced a flat personal income tax rate of 15 percent and allowances, but hundreds of thousands of Hungarians have still left the country to work in Western Europe, where they earn much more. Jozsef Bonyar, 69, who was a miner for more than a decade, denies the economy is doing better. "It is not true," he said. "If that was the case, young people would not go abroad to work."

Bonyar lives on a monthly pension of 50,000 forints (\$185) while his son works in Germany as a truck driver and his two step daughters are employed in Italy. He voted for Orban's Fidesz party in 2010 and 2014, but says he would not do so again. Some take a more favourable view. "The government has made some good decisions," said Adam Paroczi, a 21-year-old who is studying to be a teacher.

But while Paroczi wants to stay in Hungary, he says tax cheating remains a big problem. "Many people are, on paper, employed at a certain wage, and then they get more money in their pockets. Let's be honest, this is the way it works." — Reuters



JAKARTA: A books vendor uses her cell phone while waiting for customers in Jakarta yesterday. Indonesia's central bank cut its benchmark interest rate on Thursday in a bid to boost sagging growth, given space to act thanks to the Fed's decision not to raise the cost of borrowing. —AFP

ARGENTINA ECONOMY SHRINKS FOR THIRD STRAIGHT QUARTER

BUENOS AIRES: Argentina said on Thursday the economy shrank 2.1 percent in the second quarter from the first quarter of 2016, as the country remained mired in recession during the first year of President Mauricio Macri's administration.

Compared with the same quarter of 2015, gross domestic product shrank 3.4 percent in the April-to-June period, the first quarter of year-on-year contraction since at least 2015. The government expects a return to annual growth in 2017.

Year-over-year declines in Argentina's construction, manufacturing and agriculture industries weighed most heavily on the economy in the second quarter, according to Indec, the government statistics agency. The South American country had growth in the public sector, however, as well as restaurants and hotels and transportation. Macri's center-right administration, which took office in December after more than a decade of leftist rule, has been trying to reform the economy through free-market measures. It has eliminated currency controls and grains export taxes, lowered utility subsidies and settled a long-standing lawsuit with bond-holders that had kept the country in default.

Indec revised its estimate for the third quarter of 2015 to growth of 0.1 percent from the prior quarter, up from a contraction of -0.1 percent. That means the second quarter of 2016 was the third consecutive quarter of contraction. Indec also revised growth for the second quarter of 2015 down to 1.1 percent from 1.4 percent and revised first-quarter 2015 growth up to 2 percent from 1.7 percent. Finance Minister Alfonso Prat-Gay said earlier this week that the economy would break its contraction streak in the July-to-September period. This was the second time Macri's administration announced quarterly GDP figures following a major revamp by the statistics agency. The prior administration's economic statistics were widely viewed as manipulated. In addition to recession, Argentina is suffering inflation of around 40 percent this year, although the government expects it to fall to 17 percent next year. — Reuters

ANGLO AMERICAN NAMES NEW FINANCE DIRECTOR

LONDON/BENGALURU: Global mining company Anglo American Plc yesterday named a new finance director with a track record in cost-cutting and debt reduction at Australian iron ore giant Fortescue. Anglo American has been among the companies hardest hit by a deep commodities slide that last year saw miners stack up uncomfortable levels of debt and announce a flurry of asset sales. Miners and commodity markets have since recovered and Anglo's shares have risen around 200 percent this year. Yesterday, they eased around a percent in line with the broader sector.

Stephen Pearce, chief financial officer at Fortescue Metals Group Ltd, will join the Anglo American board on Jan. 30 and take up his position as CFO in April, allowing a transition period. His predecessor Rene Medori, who leaves Anglo American at the end of next year and will step down from the board next April, announced his retirement in April this year.

Pearce, 52, has been CFO of Fortescue Metals Group since 2010 and has around 30 years experience in mining and energy. He helped to steer Fortescue through strong growth and also had to address the challenges of last year's slump in iron ore prices, in part through highly competitive cost-cutting. "His strong relationships with the debt and equity capital markets have proven immensely valuable in his role at Fortescue, as has his work across complex cost and other efficiency performance programmes," Anglo Chief Executive Mark Cutifani said in a statement on Friday.

"Through the portfolio restructuring and business improvement and efficiency programmes, we will create a very different investment proposition for Anglo American's shareholders," Pearce said. —Reuters

FRANCE'S ECONOMY SLOWS IN Q2 FOR FIRST TIME SINCE 2013

GOVT PUTS TOGETHER FINAL BUDGET AHEAD OF POLL

PARIS: French growth suffered a downward revision yesterday, just days before the government puts together its final budget ahead of presidential elections next year.

France's economy contracted by 0.1 percent in the second quarter, the Insee statistics agency revising an initial estimate of zero growth. This adds a layer of uncertainty to ambitious growth and deficit targets that President Francois Hollande's team reaffirmed only on Tuesday as campaigning for 2017 presidential elections gets underway.

The revision, which shows both consumers and businesses held back spending in April through June, highlights France's difficulties in combining spending boosts in the run-up to the presidential vote with the need to bring the French deficit in line with eurozone rules.

Hollande has not said whether he is seeking re-election, but if he does, his economic record will be key, including France's stubbornly high unemployment rate. Finance Minister Michel Sapin said earlier this week that the government was sticking to its fore-

casts of 1.5 percent growth this year and next, which is instrumental for its tax and spending plans as well as honouring the promise to Brussels to bring the public deficit back under the EU-limit of 3.0 percent of gross domestic product (GDP).

The French economy grew by 0.7 percent in the first three months of the year. Economists have been sceptical of the government's growth forecast, but Sapin said that domestic factors supporting growth had been "more vigorous than expected" since the beginning of the year and was set to continue.

However Insee's revised data released Friday showed households trimmed spending by 0.1 percent in the second quarter, after having spent 1.1 percent more in the first quarter. Investment by businesses fell 0.2 percent after a 1.3 percent rise in the first quarter.

Scenario not in question

"Taking into consideration public spending, overall domestic demand (excluding stocks) provided no contribution to GDP growth in the second

quarter of 2016," said Insee, noting it had provided a 0.9 percent boost at the start of the year.

A source at the finance ministry told AFP that the downward revision "does not call into question the scenario of 1.5 percent growth for this year and next" as GDP growth in the first two quarters still corresponded to 1.1 percent annual growth.

The French economy appears set to post slight growth in the third quarter, with the Banque de France saying earlier this month it expects a 0.3 percent expansion.

This view seemed to be borne out a key survey by data monitoring company IHS Markit published yesterday. While Markit's preliminary September Composite Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) report was disappointing for the eurozone as a whole, France came out well compared to its peers.

The PMI index for France came in at a 15-month high at 53.3 points after 51.9 in August. "The data raise hopes of a firmer GDP print for the third quarter after growth ground to a halt in Q2," Jack Kennedy, Senior Economist at IHS Markit, said in the statement. — AFP

STOCKS HEAD FOR BEST WEEK SINCE JULY

LONDON: Stock markets headed for their biggest weekly gain in two months yesterday after a week of central bank meetings that left investors still unconvinced that US policymakers intend to put an end to an era of ultra-low interest rates. European stock markets dipped around half a percent in morning trade, but global share indices were still near 13-month highs, helped by the assumption after a statement on Wednesday that the Federal Reserve, at worst, would raise interest rates only gradually over the next two years.

Oil prices, down in early trade, surged back into positive territory after sources told Reuters that Saudi Arabia had offered to reduce output if rival Iran also agrees to a cap, a major compromise ahead of OPEC talks in Algeria. But the mood remained rocky. A batch of poor German and European data helped propel losses for Europe's major exchanges and sterling fell 1 percent on nerves about the pace and course of talks on Britain's exit from the European Union. Wall Street was set to open marginally lower.

"Markets look to have at least one eye on Brexit's timing after (UK Foreign Minister) Boris Johnson stepped into the fray to suggest the formal withdrawal process could begin early next year," said Chris Saint, Senior Analyst at Hargreaves Lansdown Currency Service.

"Disappointing euro zone PMI data haven't dented appetite for the euro... (but) the data will add to worries that growth across the region is losing momentum." The jury is still out on whether the Fed will deliver a long-suspected increase in interest rates in December, pushing Treasury yields to their biggest decline in weeks and the dollar to a half percent loss for the week.

Buying of Italian and Spanish debt - another indicator of markets' appetite for risk - has driven the biggest weekly fall in yields since the start of July. "The immediate reac-



NEW YORK: American flags fly at the New York Stock Exchange on Wall Street. Asian stock markets held fairly steady yesterday holding on to gains in the week driven by US and Japanese central bank policy decisions that fueled investors' belief that low rates will be around for a few more months. —AP

tion across markets to the Fed's decision ... has been lower treasury yields, higher stock prices and a weaker dollar," said Jasper Lawler, an analyst at CMC Markets in London. "This reflects an understanding that the Fed isn't about to raise rates for at least three months."

Asian shares held near 14-month highs, while Japanese bond yields fell as investors

continued to debate the Bank of Japan's new policy scheme, which will seek to keep longer-dated yields around zero. MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan ticked up 0.15 percent, driven by gains in Australia, and within sight of their highest levels since July 2015.

But Japan's Nikkei dipped 0.3 percent, reflecting the yen's gains during a market hol-

iday on Thursday. "Equity indices are displaying oft-seen yesterday weakness, investors digesting strong 3-4 percent rallies of the last week/10-days," said Mike van Dulken, Head of Research at Accendo Markets.

"Banks remain pressured by the prospect of lower rates for longer and global growth uncertainty. Defensives more in favour into week-end." — Reuters



PARIS: Former trader Jerome Kerviel (right) and his lawyer David Koubbi, talk to media at the Versailles appeal court, west of Paris yesterday. — AP

FRENCH ROGUE TRADER DAMAGES SLASHED TO 1 MILLION EUROS

KERVEL WAS 'PARTLY RESPONSIBLE' FOR HUGE LOSSES

VERSAILLES, France: Former French rogue trader Jerome Kerviel will not have to pay 4.9 billion euros (\$5.5 billion) in damages to the bank that used to employ him, but a more manageable 1 million euros (\$1.1 million), a court ruled yesterday.

The court said Kerviel was "partly responsible" for huge losses suffered in 2008 by Societe Generale through his reckless financial trades. But it also ruled that the bank's "deficiencies" in its management, controls and security systems contributed to the losses, which Kerviel would have had no realistic way of reimbursing. "I'm hoping to get to zero (civil damages) in the end because I still think I do not owe

anything to Societe Generale. The battle continues," Kerviel told reporters following the ruling.

Societe Generale's lawyer Jean Veil said the bank has not decided yet whether to appeal. He said that the court's decision means the damages are now realistic and "enforceable." In one of the biggest ever trading fraud cases, Kerviel was sentenced to three years in prison for nearly bringing down the bank with the losses, just before the financial market meltdown in 2008. The 39-year-old was found guilty of forgery, breach of trust and fraudulent computer use for covering up bets worth 50 billion euros - more than the market value of the entire bank at the time.

In 2014, France's highest court upheld Kerviel's criminal conviction and three-year sentence, but annulled the 4.9 billion euros in civil damages, saying they were "disproportionate" and that the bank had its share of responsibility in its own losses.

The initial amount of damages, which were equivalent to the total losses reported by the bank in the fraud, was so huge that Kerviel wouldn't have been able to pay them anyway.

As a result, the top court ordered a new civil trial. Kerviel says his managers were aware of his risky operations, which had initially earned the bank 1.4 billion euros (\$1.6 billion) in 2007, weeks before turning sour in early 2008. He claims the bank had quietly welcomed his unauthorized trades when they made money, but dropped him when they began making losses.

The lawyers for Societe Generale have said Kerviel used his computer, financial skills and fake documents to conceal his unauthorized trading from managers.

Also at stake for the bank in the new civil trial are big tax credits it received from the French state in compensation for the losses incurred from Kerviel's fraud. If Societe Generale is ultimately found responsible for faults in handling the Kerviel case, the French government could ask the bank to pay back the tax credits, reportedly worth 2.2 billion euros (\$2.5 billion).

Kerviel's legal saga is expected to go on, with his lawyer now trying to have his client's criminal conviction overturned. The battle is also about image and reputation, both for the bank and Kerviel, who has tried to portray himself as a victim of an improperly regulated banking sector and a crusader against the ills of the financial world. — AP

PROTON PARTNER SEARCH FLUSHES OUT 3 CARMAKERS

KUALA LUMPUR: At least three firms including Peugeot maker PSA have signalled interest in a deal with ailing Malaysian carmaker Proton, people familiar with the matter said, as the faded brand's owner seeks to sell a stake in a company once seen as a symbol of the country's drive to industrialise.

The search by Malaysian conglomerate DRB-Hicom is the latest in a long series of efforts to find a partner to help revive Proton after years of profit being hit by sub-par cars, poor after-sales service and tough competition. The government gave Proton 1.5 billion ringgit (\$365 million) in financial aid in April. A Paris-based spokesman for PSA said, "Peugeot confirms it is responding to a request for proposals initiated by Proton and its sharehold-

er." The spokesman declined to comment on what PSA's response would be, or the nature of the proposals requested by Proton.

One person familiar with the matter said Proton sent partnership proposals to nearly 20 carmakers earlier this year. Japan's Suzuki Motor Corp and French carmaker Renault SA are also responding to Proton's request for proposals, people said. Suzuki and Renault officials declined to comment. While Proton's fortunes have waned since its 1990s heyday, the potential attraction for foreign partners would be access to its under-utilised manufacturing capacity: Proton has two manufacturing facilities in Malaysia that can make up to 400,000 cars annually, though it sold just 102,000 cars last year. — Reuters

EDCON BANKS ON SIMPLE FIXES AFTER S AFRICA'S LARGEST BUYOUT FLOPS

JOHANNESBURG: Tasked with turning around South African retailer Edcon, which had been on the verge of collapse just a few months ago, its management thinks it can apply simple fixes after Bain Capital walked away with nothing from its African venture. The team led by Bernie Brookes, an Australian appointed in September last year, have much working to their advantage at Edcon, whose owner Bain Capital handed control to creditors in this week's \$1.5 billion debt to equity swap deal that slashed its heavy debt-load by nearly 80 percent to 6 billion rand (\$450 million).

In South Africa's largest ever private equity deal at the time, Bain took Edcon private in a 25 billion rand, (then \$3.5 billion) highly leveraged buyout in 2007 but slower earnings growth and a weaker rand made the euro-denominated bond repayments unaffordable.

Under Brookes the company has trimmed its head office and plans to grow profit by boosting in-store credit sales and pushing its own clothing brands, while cutting back on pricy international labels.

"At least now they have the cash flow to enable them to do something because up until now they have been so starved of cash they couldn't do anything," Wayne McCurrie, a portfolio manager at Momentum Asset Management. Edcon, which vies for market share with The Foschini Group, Truworths and international chains such as Inditex's Zara, H&M and Cotton On, suspended interest payments on two euro and dollar-denominated bonds in April to boost liquidity.

A 425 million euro bond - originally pitched in late 2013 as a bridge to an initial public offering - was written down last year in a distressed exchange offer.

'A LOT TO FIX'

For Brookes, who spent nearly a decade at Australia's biggest department store chain Myer taking it from a buyout to a listing, overhauling Edcon's capital structure would free him up to focus on dressing up the 87-year-old company for a stock market floatation in three to four years. "The interest burden of the company went as high as 4.2 billion rand a year, now our interest payment is roughly half a billion rand," Brookes said. And importantly, around 70 percent of Edcon's debt is now in the local currency, compared to only 30 percent before the swap, making the retailer much less vulnerable to the volatile rand, and no debt repayments are due until 2019.

Speaking at the Edcon's headquarters, whose foyer had stacks of discounted duvets and sets of cheese knives, Brookes said a three to four years of hard work lay ahead. "There is a lot to fix," said Brookes, pointing at Edcon's waning credit sales. Getting customers to buy on in-store credit is vital for Brookes' stated goal of growing the company's annual sales by at least 2 percent until its heads back to the Johannesburg Stock Exchange.

Up to two thirds of South African fashion retailers' sales are on in-store credit cards, but tighter lending criteria by Barclays Africa, which bought Edcon's debtors book for \$1 billion in 2012, choked off growth. Barclays declined to comment, but Brookes said Edcon would now grant credit to customers who might have been too risky for the bank. "Our credit book has declined by nearly 30 percent over the last four to five years," he said. He declined to give the size of the book but said it was "only a few hundred million (rand)".

PRIVATE LABELS

Another key area for Brookes will be building up sales of labels owned by Edcon, which had taken a back seat under former chief executive Jurgen Schreiber, who brought in a range of global brands such as Tom Tailor to fend off competition from international retailers such as Gap and Zara. With the rand falling by about 60 percent since 2013, imported brands have become too expensive for Edcon to pass on costs to consumers in a fiercely competitive market. Brookes said his company would cut imported labels to 12 from 37, replacing them with its own private brands such as Kelso and J-Exchange. "We are moving our own labels like Kelso to the front of the store," said Brookes. The company will keep River Island, TopShop, Accessorize and TM Lewin. — Reuters

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2016

Kuwait Times

Weekender

www.kuwaittimes.net

A model wearing a dress made from liquorice and candy parades on the catwalk during a Halloween themed costume contest at the opening of the 2016 Metropolitan Fashion Week in Los Angeles, California. —AFP

Armani revels in new freedom with catwalk charm offensive

SEE PAGE 27



Musician Dave Grohl (left) joins musician Tom Morello of Prophets of Rage on stage at the Forum on September 15, 2016 in Inglewood, California. — AFP

Paul Simon, Tom Morello lead music drive against poverty

Pop-folk legend Paul Simon and hard-edged guitarist Tom Morello on Thursday led a drive by musicians to fight poverty, bringing promises of greater action to help the world's most vulnerable. The two headlined a first night of the Global Citizen Festival, which will culminate with a live-broadcast concert Saturday from New York's Central Park featuring Rihanna and Metallica. The five-year-old festival, which distributes tickets for free to fans who lobby leaders to support international development, held the more intimate first concert to highlight the causes at stake.

Interspersed with celebrity appearances, activists spoke of key, if unglamorous, challenges to development—such as sanitation, with more than 650 million people around the world lacking safe drinking water, according to UN figures. Prime Minister Mark Rutte of The Netherlands, a country with a long history of fighting floods, announced \$50 million for the UN's Water Supply and Sanitation Collaboration Council. "It's like a Rubik's Cube," Rutte, speaking to the concert by video, said of the planet's development and environmental issues. "A change on one side has a knock-on effect on everything else. But I say, let's go for the blue side first because water is the beginning of everything," he said. Several companies including Microsoft, HP and Western Union also announced charitable efforts in support of refugees amid the bloodshed in Syria.

'Here Comes the Sun'

Global Citizen, which says its supporters have taken more than six million actions such as petitioning leaders since 2012, takes inspiration from the 1971 Concert for Bangladesh. The two shows were organized in New York by ex-Beatle George Harrison to support masses left destitute by a ruthless Pakistani military campaign and devastating cyclone. Simon presented an inaugural Global Citizen award to Harrison's son Dhani and widow Olivia—before playing a cover of Harrison's most famous song, "Here Comes the Sun."

The former half of Simon and Garfunkel, who has flirted with retirement, gave a light, folksy take on the Beatles classic as he played guitar with fellow strummer Mark Stewart. Morello, best known as the guitarist of leftist rockers Rage Against the Machine, predictably delivered the most charged performance of the evening. Backed by The Kenyan Boys Choir, Morello—who recalled that he is partially of Kenyan heritage—led an intense "This Land Is Your Land," often called the alternative US national anthem. Morello—who sang an oft-forgotten verse by the song's Marxist writer Woody Guthrie attacking private property—urged fans to fight for justice "without compromise or apology." "Aim for the world you really want... one where you don't have to be afraid of being blown up by a drone in the Middle East or being killed by a cop here in the United States of America," he said. — AFP

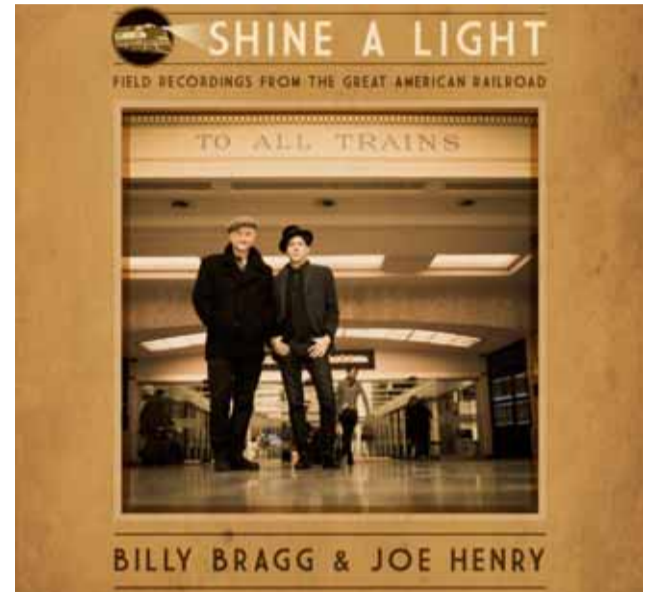
Review

Bragg and Henry shine on rail-inspired, recorded set

Recordings from the Great American Railroad" (Cooking Vinyl) It might seem paradoxical for a politically outspoken singer-songwriter like Billy Bragg to ride off during a divisive, restive time on both sides of the Atlantic. But he wasn't hiding out: The English musician with a roots-folk-punk persuasion literally hit the rails with American musical partner-in-crime, Joe Henry, and returned from a roughly 2,700-mile train journey from Chicago to Los Angeles with the album, "Shine a Light: Field Recordings from the Great American Railroad."

The musicians rode the Texas Eagle and the Sunset Limited and recorded on them, as well as in train stations and one hotel room along the way. They emerged with a baker's dozen of rambling, raggedly exquisite rail-inspired songs. Standouts include the up-tempo "Rock Island Line" and "John Henry," and Bragg delivers the lead on a gem, "Waiting for a Train." The song was adapted by Jimmie Rodgers, a country music forefather who lived in the same San Antonio hotel where Bragg and Henry recorded it. Rodgers adapted it from a British ballad called "Standing on a Platform." That apparently suits Bragg, who sweetly sings - and even yodels - on what sounds like an authentic, early 20th century field recording.

The 21st century troubadours travel light here, with only guitars, a bit of harmonica and the ambient sounds of birds and trains. But the spare arrangements are enriched by their harmonizing, a fine blend they should bring to future projects. Henry and Bragg - the latter worked with Wilco on writing music for a cache of Woody Guthrie lyrics - say in the liner



notes that this was no nostalgia trip. They were plying musical ground in an effort to understand "just who we have become and why." This collection indeed shines a light and breathes new life into old songs that roll ever on - sometimes loosely but never off the rails. — AP



This CD cover image released by JS Records shows "Nashville Sessions," the latest release by Jake Shimabukuro. — AP

Jake Shimabukuro takes roaming ukulele to Nashville

Jake Shimabukuro draws sounds both traditional and innovative from his ukulele on "Nashville Sessions," an adventurous, dazzling album. Using the instrument from his native Hawaii to explore a variety of styles in the company of drummer Evan Hutchings and bassist Nolan Verner, Shimabukuro broadens his sonic palette on 11 original compositions stretching from jazz fusion to rock and beyond.

The 39-year-old virtuoso sticks to the instrument's natural voice on "Galloping Seahorses" but flies across the fretboard as Hutchings extracts intensity from all over his kit, the tune reminiscent of violinist Jean-Luc Ponty's 1970s prime. "Motown" has some trademark Santana tones, but it's really Shimabukuro driving his uke to conquer soundscapes it rarely explores. "Celtic Tune" is adorned with a string section which could even be ukuleles in disguise while "Blue Haiku" sees the member of the lute family sounding like a kalimba in the hands of Larry Carlton. On other tracks, it's Steve Vai and Jeff Beck who come to mind.

Closer "Kilauea," named after the Hawaiian volcano adorning the album cover, flows and erupts in an extended gush of scorching distortion. — AP

Adam Levine, Behati Prinsloo welcome daughter, Dusty Rose

Adam Levine is welcoming a new voice into his home. The singer-songwriter and his wife, Behati Prinsloo, are parents. Levine's spokeswoman Carleen Donovan says "The Voice" coach and Victoria's Secret model welcomed a daughter named Dusty Rose Levine.

No other details were provided. Prinsloo and the frontman for the band Maroon 5 and have been married since 2014. Dusty Rose Levine is their first child. E! was first to report the birth. — AP



In this file photo, Adam Levine, left, and Behati Prinsloo arrive at the 72nd annual Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, Calif. — AP

Ice Cube gets ready to take on Charlie Day in 'Fist Fight' trailer

Ice Cube is determined to clobber Charlie Day with an entire high school looking on in the first trailer for New Line's comedy "Fist Fight." The script by Van Robichaux and Evan Susser centers on a pair of high school teachers with Cube's character challenging Day's instructor after suspecting his colleague is trying to get him fired.

"I'm going fight you...I want everyone to see this," Cube announces, prompting Day to respond that teachers don't fight. Cube's character is not dissuaded as the school goes into a frenzy of pre-fight anticipation. A frantic Day winds up calling 911 to ask for help and is told by the operator, played by Kyanna Simone, to go talk to a teacher. When told that he is a teacher, she responds, "You're a grown man; now go and take that ass-whipping." New Line set up "Fist Fight" in late 2013 with 21 Laps' Shawn Levy and Dan Cohen producing with Billy Rosenberg and Max Greenfield. Richie Keen directs. "Fist Fight" opens Feb 17. — Reuters



Ice Cube

FBI mulls probe into Brad Pitt plane allegations

The FBI says it is gathering information before deciding whether to launch a federal probe into an alleged incident on a plane carrying Brad Pitt and his children. Allegations over a purported incident on the plane emerged in the US media just days after 41-year-old Angelina Jolie filed for divorce from Pitt and sought custody of their six children. "The FBI is continuing to gather facts and will

evaluate whether an investigation at the federal level will be pursued," the FBI said in a statement.

It did not offer any details of the allegations but said the location was within US aircraft jurisdiction, "specifically, an aircraft carrying Mr. Brad Pitt and his children". The Los Angeles Police Department denied on Thursday reports that the Pitt, 52, was under investigation. "We have no

report in our record for any filings for Brad Pitt, we are not having any investigations regarding Brad Pitt," police spokesman Lorenzo Quezada told AFP.

The LA County Department of Children and Family Services also denied that it had confirmed allegations against Pitt to any media outlets. Several US media outlets on Tuesday reported that Pitt had been involved in an angry outburst

with at least one of his children. The two actors are among America's biggest film stars. Together they came to be known as "Brangelina" - Hollywood's most glamorous and celebrated couple in decades. The A-listers wed in France in August two years ago, but have been a couple since 2004. They have three biological and three adopted children together. — AFP



In this image released by Sony Pictures, Byung-hun Lee, (from left), Ethan Hawke, Manuel Garcia-Rulfo, Denzel Washington, Chris Pratt, Vincent D'Onofrio and Martin Sensmeier appear in a scene from "The Magnificent Seven." — AP

Flush with opportunities, Chris Pratt plays a new hand

The offer to star in Antoine Fuqua's "The Magnificent Seven" came to Chris Pratt while he was on a hunting trip with friends, listening to an audio book of Larry McMurtry's "Lonesome Dove." Having recently learned some card tricks of his own, the part - a gun-slinging card sharp - felt like kismet. "All of the signs in my life pointed me toward doing this movie," Pratt says. "It's like when you get dealt a hand that you don't even throw a single card back. You're like: That's the hand I'm going to play."

Off of the success of "Guardians of the Galaxy" and "Jurassic World," Pratt is now playing a much different game, with some enviable cards. Few actors have ever been more immediately, more head-spinningly catapulted to stardom as Pratt did when the collective \$2.9 billion in global box office of "Guardians," "Jurassic World" and "The Lego Movie" drove him to the top of the A-list. "The Magnificent Seven," a remake of the 1960 original (which itself was a remake of Akira Kurosawa's "Seven Samurai") was the first thing Pratt decided to do. "I actually said no to a lot of things," he says. "This was the first thing I said yes to."

Comic character actor

The film, which opens Friday, represents the first phase of Pratt's new reality as a movie star with the power to pick and choose. It's still a somewhat novel experience for the 37-year-old Pratt, whose first decade in the movie business was as a comic character actor, most recognizable as the lovable Andy Dwyer on "Parks and Recreation." "This was the first chapter in a whole new book that was so vastly different from the first book," says Pratt. "My choice of yes or no was on an audition. Do you want to go out for this? Yes or no. No one had offered me a part ever, so I would just go out for everything."

His challenge now, he says, is to use his new-

found freedom wisely. "I became someone that a studio could at least partially build a movie around," Pratt says. "It's a good thing but it's also a bad thing because you get offered all kinds of movies that you're definitely not right for. You could potentially be responsible for getting a bunch of bad movies made." "If it was me on my own, I would have screwed it up," he adds. "I rely on people I really trust." Naturally, there are some big-budget sequels on the horizon. He has already shot "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2," due out next year, and he'll be back for another "Jurassic World" film, where J.A. Boyona is set to take over directing. But more immediately, Pratt stars in the upcoming sci-fi thriller-romance "Passengers" alongside Jennifer Lawrence. They play space travelers woken from hibernation 90 years too early.

Conscious decision

"Chris is a guy who's trying harder. I think he's focused. He's happy to be there," says Fuqua. "He's physical, he has charm and he has a lot of depth that no one's even scratched yet. I know he's doing a lot of films now that will probably take him deeper. You can tell that's where he wants to go." But Pratt is also devoting less of himself to his career, now that it's been established. Pratt, who has a 4-year-old with his wife, Anna Farris, says he's made the conscious decision to not do back-to-back movies. He's aiming to make movies that are both good and commercial.

"I don't really have the time or the luxury to say: Do one for them and one for me," Pratt says. "The one that I do for them also has to be for me because the one that I do for me is really not making a movie and staying home with my family." In "Magnificent Seven," Pratt slides into the role carved out earlier by Steve McQueen, or if you go back to "Seven Samurai," Toshiro Mifune - the playful, hard-drinking, reckless one of the bunch. — AP

Young filmmakers thank the academy at Student Academy Awards

Seventeen young filmmakers from around the world gathered in Beverly Hills, California, to utter the six magic words they've been practicing all their lives: "I'd like to thank the academy." The film academy presented its 43rd annual Student Academy Awards Thursday night, recognizing narrative, documentary, animated and alternative productions by American and international college students.

Accepting medals from actors Lucy Liu, Joel Edgerton, Daisy Ridley and Parker Sawyers, the winning filmmakers were giddy as they got to thank the academy and actually mean it. The students spent the past week in Los Angeles as academy guests, meeting with studios and networking over fancy dinners. "This is the most amazing week of my life," said Alex Schaad, of the University of Television and Film Munich, as he received his medal. "This evening, this ceremony, this whole week and this award will change a lot of things, and I will owe you that for the rest of my life."

Rongfei Guo, a Chinese filmmaker studying at New York University, said her parents don't understand the world of independent film, but the academy recognition will let her "prove to my parents that what your daughter's doing is about an Academy Award." Liu said she was inspired by seeing "so many people who are excited about the future." Edgerton said he's humbled by the next generation of filmmakers. "They have their eyes on what's really going on," he said. "And they're not thinking about the money, and I love that!"

Members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences chose the 17 winning films from a record 1,749 submissions. The winning filmmakers hail from China, Greece, Israel, Germany, Poland, Singapore and the United States. More than half are women. Yvonne Ng, a student at City College of New York whose film is about the aftermath of the Hiroshima bombing, found a theme among the chosen works.

"It's no coincidence that tonight all the winners, the majority of our films are all about the past tragedies that happened on humanity," she said as she accepted her medal. "Someone tonight said to me that we represent the future of filmmaking. And I think we also represent the future that's screaming for peace and love, compassion and mutual respect." Jimmy Keyrouz of Columbia University, whose film about a musician rebuilding

his piano after it's destroyed by terrorists, thanked the academy for helping young filmmakers get their work seen. "Our message is one of hope, and when people are hopeless and desperate, it becomes easier to turn to extremism," he said. "And in a world that is torn by wars and devastation, art is a mighty tool that helps us fight extremism and terrorism, so thank you to the academy for joining our fight. We take so many things for granted, like freedom of speech and expression, and in so many parts of the world, these are luxuries that must be fought for every day."

All of the winning student films are now eligible for Academy Awards. Two student films received nominations last year. Previous Student Academy Award winners include Spike Lee, Trey Parker, Cary Fukunaga, Robert Zemeckis and Pixar's Pete Docter and John Lasseter.

The 2016 Student Academy Award winners:

"All These Voices," David Henry Gerson, American Film Institute
 "Cloud Kumo," Yvonne Ng, City College of New York
 "The Swan Girl," Johnny Coffeen, Maharishi University of Management
 "Die Flucht," Carter Boyce, DePaul University
 "Once upon a Line," Alicja Jasina, University of Southern California
 "The Wishgranter," Echo Wu, Ringling College of Art and Design
 "Fairy Tales," Rongfei Guo, New York University
 "4.1 Miles," Daphne Matziaraki, University of California, Berkeley
 "From Flint: Voices of a Poisoned City," Elise Conklin, Michigan State University
 "It's Just a Gun," Brian Robau, Chapman University
 "Nocturne in Black," Jimmy Keyrouz, Columbia University
 "Rocket," Brenna Malloy, Chapman University
 "Invention of Trust," Alex Schaad, University of Television and Film Munich (Germany)
 "Tenants," Klara Kochanska, The Polish National Film, Television and Theatre School (Poland)
 "Where the Woods End," Felix Ahrens, Film University Babelsberg (Germany)
 "Ayny," Ahmad Saleh, Academy of Media Arts Cologne (Germany)
 "The Most Beautiful Woman," Maya Sarfaty, Tel Aviv University (Israel) — AP



Presenter Joel Edgerton, second from right, poses with student Academy Award winners in the narrative category. — AP photos

Lebanese

shun pricey, polluted beaches for trips abroad

A general view shows sea-side beach resorts and buildings in the coastal Lebanese town of Tabarja, north of the capital Beirut.
— AFP photos

Lebanese like Hamza Al-Sees should have no problem finding a beach to while away the summer in a country stretching along the Mediterranean. But as private developers have gobbled up seafront land and families complain of ever-more polluted waters, many Lebanese say it is cheaper and cleaner to fly abroad than go to the beach at home. "I went to Cyprus for five days, stayed in a luxury hotel and enjoyed the beauty of the Cypriot coast," said Sees, who hails from Lebanon's southern beachfront city of Sidon.

"For the ticket, the hotel and all the expenses—including transport, food, drink, clubs and activities—I paid \$1,000," the 23-year-old shopkeeper said. "I even bought gifts and souvenirs for my family," he said, adding it was the second year in a row that he and friends had made the trip. In Lebanon, by contrast, expenses start piling up long before beachgoers even dip into the water. "The costs start with the valet parking at these beach spots," Sees said. "Then you have the entrance fee, which won't be less than \$30, and then the cost of just juice, water and a normal meal would be at least \$40." For Lara Aoun, 34, a five-day getaway to Cyprus to escape Lebanon's polluted seafronts was well-worth \$500.

'Swim alongside bottles'

"The sea in Lebanon and Cyprus is the same, but there the beaches are clean and free," Aoun said. "Here we either swim alongside bottles and cans at the free beaches, or pay a fortune at private resorts," she said, describing the options along Lebanon's 220-kilometre (130-mile) coastline. Open dumping of solid trash is common in Lebanon, which has been rocked by a waste management crisis since the summer of 2015.

The "overwhelming presence" of factories along Lebanon's coast has also resulted in severe water pollution, including with toxic materials, according to a 2012 report from Lebanon's University of Balamand. And more than 150 kilometers of coastline was contaminated in 2006 by an oil spill resulting from the Israeli bombardment of a major power plant south of Beirut, the report added. The increasing number of Lebanese looking for beaches abroad has prompted travel agencies to organize charter flights to attract more clients with cheaper packages. Hassan Dahir, owner of the Five Stars travel agency, said Turkey's seaside resorts of Marmaris, Bodrum, Antalya and Alanya have become top destinations for Lebanese, followed by Cyprus and Egypt's Sharm al-Sheikh.



Lebanese youth swim next to floating rubbish and waste in the coastal Lebanese town of Anfeh.

"You can go to Marmaris in Turkey for five days, stay at a mid-range hotel, and spend \$425, including food and drink," he said. Dahir said an average of 10 charter flights a week—each carrying 150 to 190 passengers—were taking off to various beach destinations abroad between June and September.

'No real public beaches'

Much of the problem stems from a dearth of clean and free public beaches or swimming pools at home. "Public beaches in the usual sense of

the term don't exist in Lebanon," said Mohammad Ayub, executive director of the civil society NGO Nahnoo. Lebanon "is one of the rare countries that allows construction on its public coastal land," he added. But many of the resorts that now restrict access to Lebanon's coast are unlicensed, built on land that was obtained during the country's 1975-1990 civil war.

A 2012 report by the Ministry of Transportation said around five square kilometers of the coastline was now built up, most of it illegally. "All the

state agencies and politicians are offenders... and the solution is to cancel the law that allows investment on the coast," Ayub said. Activists have protested against developers building on the last remaining public beaches, including earlier this month in the seaside village of Kfarabida. Hundreds gathered on its rocky shore in northern Lebanon, calling on the government to "save our beaches".

"The government must turn this place into a natural reserve," said blogger and activist Nadine Mazloum. For those who can't afford to travel overseas, Lebanon's few public beaches are the only option. This year, the public beaches in Tyre and Naqura in southern Lebanon have overflowed with visitors, despite a lack of facilities.

And sun worshippers have also flocked to Anfeh, in the north, where restaurants sit on the shoreline, offering visitors sea access in return for their custom. "We've gotten to know Anfeh to avoid the pollution and high prices," said Rose Matteh, sitting with her family at one of the restaurants, which are painted blue and white to resemble Greece's Santorini. "Elsewhere, we end up paying \$80 to enter and another \$80 for food. At least here we can eat, drink and enjoy the sea for only \$80." — AFP



People spend time by the sea in the coastal Lebanese town of Anfeh north of the capital Beirut.



People try to access a public beach on the Beirut cornice.

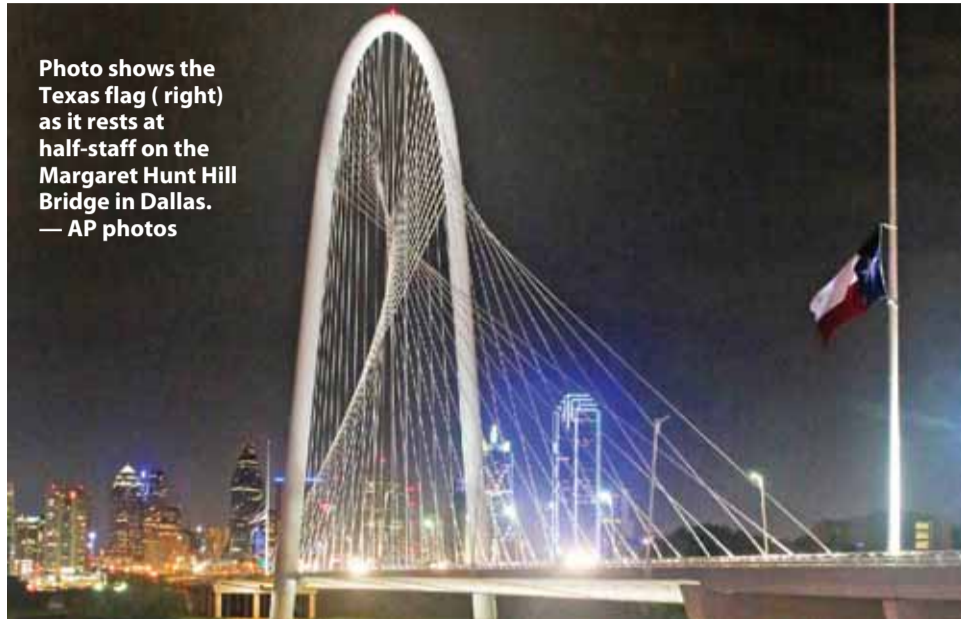
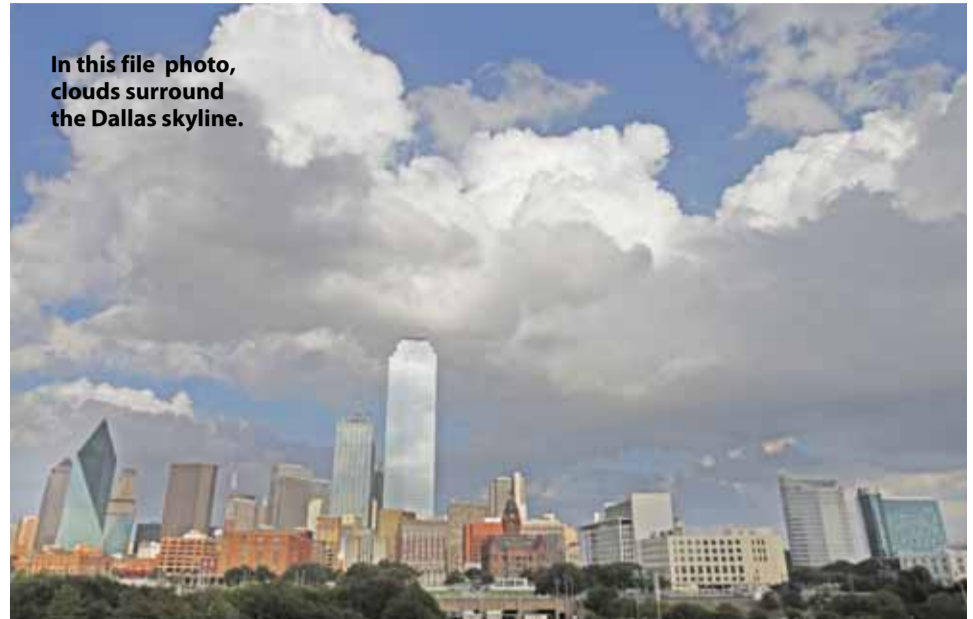


Photo shows the Texas flag (right) as it rests at half-staff on the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge in Dallas. — AP photos



In this file photo, clouds surround the Dallas skyline.

Surprise: You don't need a car (or truck) to enjoy Dallas

Asphalt and concrete have defined Dallas since a north-south "central expressway" was envisioned in the early 1900s for a stretch of railroad right-of-way. Travel by anything other than an automobile can be challenging and sometimes impractical. However, there is a promising alternative - call it "Walking Dallas." The development of the Uptown neighborhood, abetted by the expansion of Dallas' cultural district and millennials moving into the area, means a car is not a requirement.

Ground zero for enjoying the city on foot is Klyde Warren Park. Philanthropists and city planners put a roof over a freeway canyon that separated Dallas' downtown from Uptown. Add grass, flower beds, trees, a dog park, a sound stage and food trucks, and the result is throngs of pedestrians.



In this file photo, a McKinney Ave Transit Authority trolley passes by in the Uptown area of Dallas.

Michelin's Green Guide awarded Dallas its highest city rating, gushing about "a fantastic, world-class cultural, architectural and culinary destination." Several of Michelin's touts are a walk away from Klyde Warren. The "burbs" haven't disappeared and corporate moves to outlying cities are business-page headlines.

Mass transit is improving, but not comparable to the Northeast, and, let's face it, it's too hot in July or August to walk in daytime. But autumn is on the way, with temperatures in the 70s and 80s F (21 to 32 C), arguably Dallas' best season.

What's new

Near Klyde Warren are hotels like the \$600-a-night ZaZa or family options under \$200. It's a short walk to the Perot Museum of Nature and Science - a 15-story cube where kids can race against videos of a tyrannosaurus, life-sized cheetah or Dallas Cowboys running back.

Rather ride than hoof it?

In Deep Ellum east of downtown, Local Hub Bicycle Co rents bikes for \$35 a day. "We've had people from all over the world get a bike for the whole week," says co-owner Justin Shannon. Ride the Katy Trail, a 3.5-mile (5.6-kilometer) linear park that starts near downtown, or pedal to the Trinity Groves entertainment district and Dallas' latest landmark, the soaring Margaret Hill Hunt Bridge. The old-fashioned McKinney Avenue Trolley follows a 4.5-mile (7.2-kilometer) elongated loop to the Nasher Sculpture Garden and the Dallas Museum of Art, both highlighted by Michelin, as well as Uptown's brasseries.

The President George W Bush Library is a short cab ride to the shady campus of Southern Methodist University, First Lady Laura Bush's alma mater. The museum has a replica of Bush's Oval Office and includes a 22-foot (6.7-meter) section from the fallen World Trade Center. While there, visit SMU's Meadows Museum, called "Prado on the Prairie."

Car alert: The Star, a new \$1.5 billion, 91-acre (37-hectare) complex that houses the Dallas Cowboys headquarters and training facility is in the northern suburb of Frisco. From downtown, the drive is 30 minutes to an hour.

Classic attractions

"Walking Dallas" should include Neiman-Marcus' flagship store, even if you can't afford a \$15,000 Carolina Herrera gown. Opt for the Zodiac Room, where the mandarin orange soufflé with chicken salad (\$20) follow recipes of legendary Neiman's cookbook author Helen Corbitt. The downtown Sixth Floor Museum, reverent and not ghoulish, is dedicated to the "life, death and legacy of President John F Kennedy." It's located on the sixth floor of the building on Dealey Plaza from which shots were fired on Nov 22, 1963, killing Kennedy as he passed by in

a motorcade. The State Fair of Texas will host 3 million visitors Sept 30-Oct 23. Big Tex, a talking 55-foot statue in cowboy duds, is the official greeter. The required snack is a Fletcher's Corny Dog, but vendors will fry almost anything, including Jell-O and Twinkies. The Texas Star Ferris Wheel, 20 stories high, only operates during the State Fair, but Fair Park's renowned art deco buildings can be viewed year-round.

Tips

Since August 2014, visitors have been able to ride DART, Dallas' light rail, from DFW Airport to downtown for \$2.50. The fixed rate for taxis from the airport is \$45. Also, consider that downtown hotels might charge up to \$35 daily for parking your car. Check for tickets to classical and popular music and drama at downtown Dallas' cluster of the Winspear Opera House, Meyerson Symphony Center and Wylie Theater, if you plan to stay near downtown.

Hanging out

Happy hour patrons are two-deep at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel's Rattlesnake Bar and celebrity chef Dean Fearing's namesake restaurant is on the same floor, serving concoctions like buffalo tenderloin with jalapeno grits, lobster pot stick-

ers and oysters "Rockafearing." Less expensive is Uptown's S & D Oyster Co, where the daily chef's sampler (\$16.95) includes raw and fried oysters, gumbo, hush puppies and shrimp four ways.

Near Local Hub Bicycles is Pecan Lodge, a Dallas barbecue hub. Justin and Diane "Boss Lady" Fourton sold brisket sandwiches in a Jiffy Lube parking lot, then a stand in Dallas' Farmers Market before opening their expansive current location. Feed your delegation with "The Trough," stacks of beef, beef brisket and sausage links (\$75). — AP



File photo shows the former Texas School Book Depository, now the Sixth Floor Museum, which overlooks Dealey Plaza in Dallas.



In this file photo, visitors to the George W Bush Presidential Library and Museum look upwards at a 360 degree video screen showing a video welcoming them to the center in Dallas.

Out with hunks:**Fashion breaks codes for male models**

Muscular, classically chiseled male models are a dying breed as men are ever more chosen for thinness, even androgyny, in a fashion world playing with the notion of gender. It only takes looking back a decade to male fashion shows—at Versace, Givenchy, Louis Vuitton or Gucci—to see the change on the catwalk. Shoulders have lost their squareness, chests have sunk. Back then, “male models were a little bit bigger... not so, so skinny,” said Tricia Romani, head of the Canadian branch of the Wilhelmina international modeling agency.

Hedi Slimane, while at Saint Laurent and Dior, was among the designers who transfigured the dominant vision of the masculine look into lank, languorous and unique. “For



Hedi Slimane, while at Saint Laurent and Dior, was among designers who transfigured the dominant vision of the masculine look into lank, languorous and unique. — AFP

high fashion, that’s definitely what they want. Very thin, edgy-looking guys,” Romani said. “And they’re designing the clothes in that way so if you had a model that was big and muscular, that wouldn’t fit.” Skinnier, the new ideal male model is also taller, hitting up to six feet two inches (1.90 meters), said Neil Mautone, founder and owner of the agency Red Model Management.

Along with the fading ideal of muscle is the classically beautiful face, formerly in demand for men as well as women. Today, according to Romani, “a male model can be sort of interesting looking, or edgy or different” and be hired even if he does not fall into “a category of plastic, beautiful models.” With the growing power of male fashion, seen in the 2015 launch of the first men’s shows in New York Fashion Week, demand for male models has exploded. Between 10 percent to 15 percent of male models find enough work to be employed full-time, combining runway shows, advertising, catalogs and magazines, Romani said. The top-end models can earn more than \$1 million a year, people in the industry say, though the best-paid female models can make about 10 times more.

Man, woman, who cares?

Responding to the growing market, model agencies and designers are trashing stereotypes and broadening their palettes, an approach that is also boosting ethnic diversity, Romani noted. The new ideal look, the evolution of men’s fashion and the current focus on gender have blurred the lines between men and women. That was more evident than ever on the New York catwalks last week.



A model displays fashions during the Michael Kors Spring 2017 Runway Show during New York Fashion Week. — AFP

Several shows were decidedly “gender fluid,” parading out clothes that could be worn by either sex.

The streetwise New York brand Hood By Air, a pioneer of the trend, was joined by Dutch studio Maison the Faux and Baja East, a New York-based company known for relaxed luxury apparel. For Maison the Faux, undoubtedly the most radical of them all, the men walked the runway wearing bras and girdles. “Society always puts people in boxes and I think that doesn’t make the world a better place,” said Tessa de Boer, one half of the

design team at Maison the Faux. The Wilhelmina agency has among its models a 26-year-old person who refuses to identify with a gender and goes simply by the name Lex. The model notably has worked for N-p-Elliott, where Scottish designer Nicholas Elliott conjures up avant-garde, asexual clothes. “Being so androgynous, to me, is a blessing,” Lex told AFP in an emailed response to questions. “It increases my ability to participate in endless projects without limitation to my gender.” “If men and women are equal, then what does all that matter?” — AFP

Plus-size fashion show scores big in Japan

Japanese pop girl group Pottya, who describe themselves as “chubby”, performed their hits while eleven plus size amateur models strutted along the catwalk at a new men’s fashion show in Tokyo aimed at breaking down obesity taboos. The Tokyo Pochari (plump) Collection, jointly organized by a plus-size clothing brand Sakazen Shoji Co and fashion magazine, Mr Babe, featured models weighing more than 100 kg (220 pounds) walking, twirling and posing on the catwalk.

Thursday’s event attracted more than 100 people, who were invited to disclose their weight for a discount on a new range of ready-to-wear plus size clothing items, but organizers said the event wasn’t just about sales. They hoped to change attitudes towards plus-size people in Japan, where obesity levels are among the lowest in the developed world and large people - sumo wrestlers aside - are often depicted as figures of fun on television.

“I wanted to spread a notion that big and tall men, who have trouble finding clothes to wear, can actually choose from a wider varieties of outfits and enjoy being fashionable,” said Li Tianwei, Sakazen Shoji sales manager. This year’s event was so successful that organizers hope to run a bigger show in 2017 with both male and female models, they told Reuters. “As a fatso or big woman, I want more of these kind of events. Even this one is still small-scaled, I want it bigger,” said 37-year-old Momoko Kashiwazaki. — Reuters

Pottya is a Japanese idol group formed in late 2014.



Models wear creations for Philipp Plein women’s Spring-Summer 2017 collection, part of the Milan Fashion Week, unveiled in Milan, Italy. — AP



Italian designer Giorgio Armani (center) poses with models at the end of the show for fashion house Giorgio Armani during the 2017 Women's Spring / Summer collections shows at Milan Fashion Week yesterday. —AP/AFP photos

Armani

revels in new freedom with catwalk charm offensive

Giorgio Armani took centre stage at the Milan fashion shows yesterday with the veteran designer unveiling a flirty, exotic look for Spring-Summer 2017. In his first collection since he moved to ensure his giant style empire will continue as an independent entity once he is no longer at the reins, the 82-year-old struck what he termed a "new balance between discipline and freedom." Whether it was down to this summer's landmark corporate restructuring is anyone's guess.

But there was definitely a sense of the master of soft precision tailoring cutting himself a little more slack than usual with a string of more overtly

seductive pieces than is the Armani norm. Charm was what it was all about, according to the designer's notes on the collection, "in the sense of elegance and sensuality, but also of magic and femininity." In practice what that meant was that many of the pieces were designed to allow legs to be unveiled then covered up again, frequently with the aid of long, swinging tassels.

There were also exotic sarong skirts and shorts and trousers in soft, figure-emphasizing jersey fabrics. Jumpsuits were combined with woven leather cropped jackets and there were shawls resembling the chunky nets of tuna fishermen. The easygoing, floaty feeling was accentuated by a range of delicate sandals, flat slippers and strappy boots that produced a fishnet stocking effect on the calf. Purples and blues dominated the color palette, offset by touches of white, greige and red. Micro-sequins and crystal embroidery abounded in sparkly evening wear predominately cut from ultra-light fabrics, including georgette and organza.

'Absolute independence'

As ever, the show in the Teatro Armani concluded with the designer emerging briefly from backstage in his trademark working clothes of navy blue long-sleeved top and high-tech sweatpants to briefly return the audience's applause. With his deep tan, scrupulously tended head of white hair and a silhouette honed by daily workouts, Armani could easily pass for a much younger man. But he has long been conscious that there will come a day when he can no longer be the hands-on controller of the empire he has run for over four decades.

This summer he finally did something about it by creating a foundation that will be charged with social and



philanthropic activities but also with ensuring that the company continues to be run on principles laid down by the founder. Armani is the sole owner of a group he founded in 1975 and, with no children of his own, does not have a natural heir, although a nephew and two nieces are involved in the company.

Over the years he has flirted with the idea of a partnership with one of the major conglomerates that control much of the global luxury sector. But he has always been averse to taking his company public: he once said he could not stand the idea of dealing with "whining shareholders" over the running of an empire that spans cos-

metics, interiors and hotels as well as the upscale clothing it is best known for. With sales last year of 2.65 billion euros (\$3 billion), Armani is Italy's second biggest fashion group by turnover, just behind Prada.

When he announced the creation of the Giorgio Armani Foundation, the designer said it would be tasked with keeping Armani "stable over time, in respect of and consistent with some principles that are particularly important to me."

Those principles included autonomy and independence, an ethical approach to management, innovation and excellence and prudent financial management based on minimal debt and careful acquisitions. The priority, he said at the time, was "absolute independence." "It is the foundation on which I built my business and the last I am willing to give up." — AP

Models wear creations: part of the Giorgio Armani women's Spring-Summer 2017 collection.



Models wear creations: part of the Giorgio Armani women's Spring-Summer 2017 collection.

Milan applause boosts Prada revival hopes



metallic catwalk in flat sandals decorated with ostrich feathers. Colorful feathers of all kinds abounded on collars and cuffs. There were some checked mannish jackets but also lots of hot pants and micro-minis.

In one of the most memorable looks, black belted hotpants were paired with a bra top worn over a checked blouse, itself covering a black rollneck. Bags were clutched close to the models like precious papers. Prada chairman Carlo Mazzi forecast last month the company would return to sales and earnings growth in 2017 after taking the scissors to its cost base. That bullish prediction was issued after first half sales fell 15 per-

Prada's hopes of turning around its flagging fortunes were bolstered on Thursday when designer Miuccia Prada's latest womenswear collection was given a warm reception at Milan fashion week. The spring-summer 2017 catwalk show was hosted against the backdrop of a multi-screen film installation on which the designer collaborated with American writer/director David O. Russell. The silent dreamscape of what Prada called a "cinema poem" set a somewhat sombre tone-but the collection ended to the upbeat sound of loud and sustained applause from the audience of buyers, bloggers and assorted others.

That would have been music to the ears of executives at a company which has been hit hard by a slow-down in Asia but vowed last month that 2017 would be a year of e-commerce-led revival. The collection that will be tasked with leading that revival featured models sporting 1920s-style bobs strutting down a

cent and the company has set itself the ambitious target of doubling online turnover in each of the next three years.

Glitter lips, big pants

Fendi designer Karl Lagerfeld meanwhile recruited superstar models Gigi and Bella Hadid to help him unveil his two key looks for next summer: glitter lips and now-you-see-them, now-you-don't big pants. The veteran German designer's latest collection was a playful affair-or "decorative opulence twisted with an athletic elan," as he put it in his notes to the Roman house's 2017 Spring/Summer collection. Tennis champion Serena Williams provided some sporting star power to the front row, chatting animatedly with fashion Godmother Anna Wintour and veteran style correspondent Suzy Menkes.

Adding to the celebrity star dust, the Hadid sisters pouted their glitter-

coated lips obligingly for the backstage cameras to highlight a look that Lagerfeld revealed had been inspired by a cartoon princess: Vanellope von Schweetz from "Wreck-It Ralph". After years in which many of fashion trend-setters have seemed obsessed with getting young women to bear their nipples to the world, Lagerfeld's take on showing off your knickers was all about the fabrics rather than skin-tone. Asymetric, layered mini-dresses allowed only occasional flashes of underpants cut like track shorts of an Olympic sprinter.

But floating aprons and ribbon-tied gowns left less to the imagination from what fashionistas will pre-



sumably now have to call the rear view. Dresses were frequently pinched at the waist, enhancing the transparency of cascading sheer materials. Where fewer see-through textiles were deployed slashes up the side kept the lingerie on show. A body top was paired with a sheer skirt fastened by a bow over the derriere.

The color palette was designed to catch the eye: apricot, blush pink and pale mint were combined with sporty stripes in scarlet, burgundy and marigold. "In terms of innovation and research, this was one of the best collections we have ever produced," Fendi CEO told Pietro Beccari told reporters. The same playful spirit was to be found in Massimo Giorgetti's colorful collection for Pucci and Max Mara, for whom the Hadid sisters also did a turn, appeared to be predicting a heatwave for the warmer months of 2017. Figure-hugging jersey dresses and tight nylon leggings gave the latter's practical collection a sexy edge. — AFP



Models present creations for fashion house Prada during the 2017 Women's Spring / Summer collections shows at Milan Fashion Week .



The Moschino girl for next is a paper doll, quite literally

The looks created by Jeremy Scott, with rare exception, had large white tabs on the sides, indicating where the garment would be attached to the paper doll. The first model out wore a dress with a print of a woman's figure in lingerie, making her the test doll. Ever ironic in his pursuit of fashion, Scott milked the gimmick, leaving the back panels of outfits white - the area not seen when the paper doll garment is fastened in place.

Accessories also were mostly two-dimensional, including stoles, hats and jewelry. A French lesson of fashion vocabulary narrated the show, so the crowd learned or was reminded that hat translates into chapeau.

The language instructor also included this useful phrase: "I would like something less expensive." —AP



Models wear creations for Moschino women's Spring-Summer 2017 collection, part of the Milan Fashion Week.



KASPERSKY ANNOUNCES AVAILABILITY OF THREAT INTELLIGENCE PLATFORM

DUBAI: Kaspersky Lab announces completion and full availability of its Machine-Readable Threat Intelligence Platform, part of the Kaspersky Security Intelligence Services product range. Machine-Readable Threat Intelligence provides Threat Data Feeds and tools to integrate with the world's most popular SIEM platforms. This combination gives enterprises an un-precedent view of the threat landscape and supplies their Security Operations Centers with Indicators of Compromise needed to identify and block a multitude of cyber attacks as fast as possible. Within the Threat Data Feeds package of malware indicators for desktops and mobiles, malicious URLs has been amended with IP Reputation - a new data stream that helps customers bring their threat intelligence to a new level.

According to Kaspersky Lab's "Measuring the Financial Impact of IT Security on Businesses" report, the fast discovery of security breaches has a direct and measurable impact on recovery costs. Based on feed-

back from more than 4,000 company representatives from 25 countries, Kaspersky Lab estimated that every day a security breach goes undetected costs large businesses US\$100K on average.

The overall recovery bill for a security breach that remained undetected for a week can be as high as US\$1.1 million, while an average cost of recovery from a breach detected within hours is less than US\$400K. This monetary proof calls for an efficient detection strategy of active security breaches based on the modern concept of the Security Operations Center.

"Threat intelligence gathering is the very nature of our business. In some cases it becomes much easier to integrate Kaspersky Threat Data Feeds into customer's SIEM, than run migration to change existing anti-malware products. These feeds allow our customers to be protected by Kaspersky Lab without any significant changes to their enterprise security system. Threat Intelligence is more than just prevention: we

provide machine-readable data which empowers enterprise SOCs with the ability to identify and remediate even the most sophisticated and targeted attacks. Finally, with the completion of support for three world-leading SIEM systems, our Threat Intelligence Platform can be deployed swiftly within the majority of enterprises," said Veniamin Levtsov, Kaspersky Lab's Vice President, Enterprise Business.

Threat Data Feeds: expanded and running at full power

The optimum solution to the problem of fast incident discovery is actionable security intelligence.

This means being able to spot an attack at any point using a variety of methods. While typical prevention tools focus on analyzing activity on endpoints, an additional layer of security has to be in place. In case endpoint protection is circumvented for some reason, a security system has to be able to spot an attack on other levels. This is

exactly what Kaspersky Threat Data Feeds provide:

- **Indicators of malicious programs:** Regular updates of this feed provide enterprises with the right insight into the threat landscape in almost real time.

- **Malicious URLs, Phishing and Command & Control URLs:** This data stream may serve as the first clue to discern regular activity from a well-hidden cyber attack. Includes data about URLs associated with malware, phishing and botnet operation targeting PCs and mobile devices.

- **Mobile Threats:** A special package aimed at the telecoms industry with information about the latest malicious programs for mobile devices.

- **IP Reputation data:** This is a new feature available from August 2016. The IP Reputation feed is invaluable in identifying active breaches thanks to Kaspersky Lab's worldwide, constantly updated data on command and control servers and sources of cyber attacks.

UPS TESTING DRONES FOR ITS PACKAGE DELIVERY SYSTEM

MARBLEHEAD: One of the world's largest package delivery companies is stepping up efforts to integrate drones into its system. UPS has partnered with robot-maker CyPhy Works to test the use of drones to make commercial deliveries to remote or difficult-to-access locations. The companies began testing the drones on Thursday, when they launched one from the seaside town of Marblehead. The drone flew on a programmed route for 3 miles over the Atlantic Ocean to deliver an inhaler at Children's Island.

The successful landing was greeted by jubilant shouts from CyPhy Works and UPS employees on the island to witness the test.

"I thought it was fantastic," said John Dodero, UPS vice president for industrial engineering. CyPhy Works founder Helen Greiner, who previously co-founded robot-maker iRobot, said the drone tests with UPS allow her company to gather engineering and cost information and then work with UPS to look at where drones can add the most value to UPS' extensive network.

Still, the robot-maker doesn't see drones replacing delivery trucks, bikes, buggies or gondolas anytime soon. "Drones aren't going to take the place of all delivery, but there are places where you have inaccessible location, an emergency situation where the infrastructure is down, you want or need the package quickly - these are the areas where drones will be the best way to get a package to a location," Greiner said. It's not all clear skies for drones, though.

Newly revised federal aviation regulations don't permit commercial drones to fly over people not involved in their operations and require them to remain within line of sight of their operators at all times, effectively rendering commercial deliveries impossible.

But those restrictions aren't keeping drone-makers and their partners from racing to develop technology suitable for commercial deliveries while they work with regulators to tweak existing rules.

United Parcel Service Inc., based in Atlanta, isn't the only company testing drones. Wal-Mart is testing drones it says will help it manage its warehouse inventory more efficiently, and Amazon.com is testing them for home delivery. CyPhy Works Inc, based in Danvers, manufactures tethered surveillance drones capable of remaining airborne for hours while streaming reconnaissance data that can't be intercepted, jammed or spoofed. — AP

LINKEDIN ADDING NEW TRAINING FEATURES, NEWS FEED AND BOTS

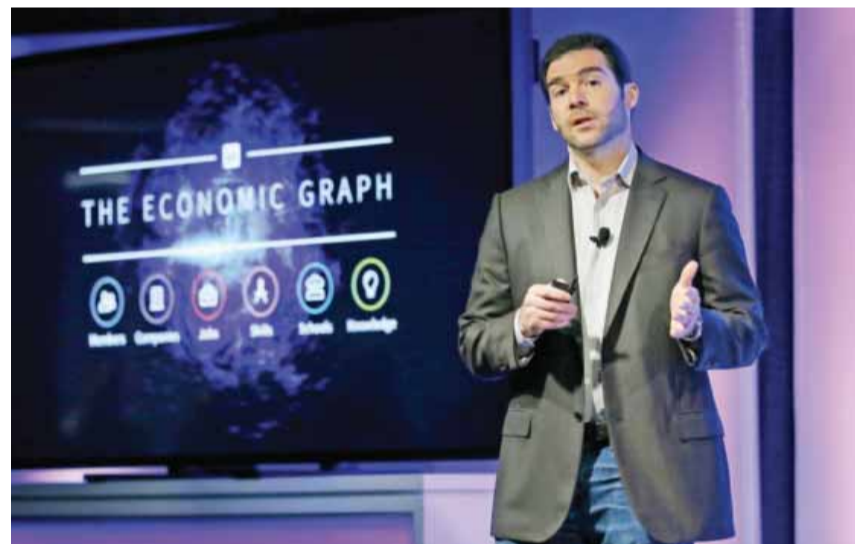
SAN FRANCISCO: LinkedIn wants to become more useful to workers by adding personalized news feeds, helpful messaging "bots" and recommendations for online training courses, as the professional networking service strives to be more than just a tool for job-hunting. The new services will arrive just as LinkedIn itself gains a new boss - Microsoft - which is paying \$26 billion to acquire the Silicon Valley company later this year.

LinkedIn said the new features, which it showed off to reporters Thursday, were in the works before the Microsoft takeover was announced in June. But LinkedIn CEO Jeff Weiner said his company hopes to incorporate some of Microsoft's technology as it builds more things like conversational "chat bots," or software that can carry on limited conversations, answer questions and perform tasks like making reservations. Chat bots are a hot new feature in the consumer tech world, where companies like Facebook, Apple and Google are already racing to offer useful services based on artificial intelligence. As a first step, LinkedIn says it will soon introduce a bot that could help someone schedule a meeting with another LinkedIn user, by comparing calendars and suggesting a convenient time and meeting place.

The new bot will be part of an online messaging service that LinkedIn is gradually expanding to make it easier for users to communicate without opening a new screen or switching to email. LinkedIn is also adding more personalized features to its news feed, where members can see articles and announcements posted by their professional contacts. A new "Interest Feed" will offer a collection of articles, posts and opinion pieces on major news events or current issues.

Professional interests

While many people already turn to Facebook, Twitter or individual news sites for similar updates, LinkedIn managers



SAN FRANCISCO: LinkedIn CEO Jeff Weiner speaks during a product announcement at his company's headquarters. — AP

suggest their feeds will be more tailored to each user's professional interests, by a combination of human editors and computer algorithms. Similarly, LinkedIn says it's begun using the online training resources of its Lynda.com educational subsidiary to make personalized recommendations for online courses that augment each user's current skills or career interests.

The new features are the latest additions LinkedIn has made to its core service in recent years - for example, by inviting prominent people and ordinary members to write their own articles or essays for the site. LinkedIn Corp makes most of its money from fees that job recruiters pay to use its database of more than 450 million members worldwide. But it wants to keep members engaged so they check in regularly and keep their profiles updated. Weiner and other executives say they want to make the site useful for more than just job-hunting.

The idea is to "help members be more

productive and successful in what they're trying to do," said LinkedIn vice president Ryan Roslansky in an interview. LinkedIn has measured an increase in routine visits to its website and mobile apps over the last year, Roslansky said, even after the company cut back on the volume of email notifications that it sends to members. It did so, he acknowledged, after members complained they were getting too many emails.

Microsoft Corp meanwhile, wants to augment its own workplace software with LinkedIn's stockpile of information about its members' job histories and professional contacts. It may combine LinkedIn's data, for example, with online programs that Microsoft sells to businesses for managing sales, hiring and other back-office functions. Weiner, who is expected to continue running LinkedIn as a semi-independent subsidiary of Microsoft, said the two companies are working on ways to integrate some services. But he said he wasn't ready to disclose more details. — AP

SMART DEVICE HACKING GETS REAL

By Alastair Paterson,
CEO of Digital Shadows

For years now, cybersecurity risk exaggerators have been talking about the threat to connected devices from hackers and other cybercriminals. But most observers have scoffed at stories of networked fridges or toasters being hacked and hijacked by cybercriminals. Just where is the real threat to our day-to-day lives from this sort of Fear Uncertainty and Doubt (FUD), they have asked? Even suggestions that cybercriminals - possibly State-sponsored - have found ways to take down nuclear power stations and power grids is slightly more worrying, but far removed from our everyday experiences and influences.

But news this week that car manufacturer Volkswagen has set up a special cybersecurity firm to protect smart connected vehicles from attack by hackers and other undesirables, would tend to suggest smart device security is getting "real" and is now part of business consciousness. So far attacks on internet connected cars and self-driving vehicles have simply been the realms of researchers and proof-of-concept, but clearly if manufacturers like car makers are worried that one day their vehicles could be a major target for hackers, we are moving from concepts to realities.

Of course we really should not be surprised that criminals are turning their eyes towards connected devices. After all, hardly a day goes by without new connected devices and services being launched and, if we know one thing about cybercriminals, they follow the opportunity to make money and look to exploit new avenues as services and solutions become mainstream.

It's all a part of the Internet of Things, or IoT. These connected devices are impacting our lives on a daily basis, changing everything from the way we provide healthcare to heating our homes to running our manufacturing facilities and other critical infrastructure. Of course the ultimate goal of IoT is to increase operational efficiency, power new business models, and improve quality of life. By connecting everyday objects and networking them together, we benefit from their ability to combine simple data to produce usable intelligence. But that also means there is greater potential that more personal information and business data will exist in the cloud and be passed back and forth, and with that comes significant implications for applying proper security to protect the data and establishing privacy policies to address how the data is used.

While much is changing, what continues to be true is that in today's world of IoT, security needs to be top of mind as the number and type of attack vectors will continue to increase as will the amount of data, creating a daunting challenge for companies and those responsible to defend the infrastructure and keep a watchful eye on would-be attackers and their motives. We need to ensure we install security on these devices at design stage, not as an afterthought; we maintain sensible security precautions like patching and password discipline; and that we monitor the impact these devices have on our digital footprint and how that puts ourselves and the companies we work for under the potential threat of exploitation. That way we can hope to take advantage of the undoubted benefits the connected world gives us, while still remaining safe.



BERLIN: This file photo shows Chairman of Hyperloop Transportation Technologies Inc Bibop Gresta posing in front of the Hyperloop technology at Innotrans, the railway industry's largest trade fair. — AFP

HYPERLOOP PUSHES DREAM OF CHEAP FUTURISTIC TRANSPORT

BERLIN: Is it a plane, is it a train? No, say supporters of Hyperloop, a futuristic mode of transport floated by Silicon Valley billionaire Elon Musk that promises high-tech, high-speed and cheap travel over long distances. It may sound like the stuff of science fiction, but developers insist their dream of passengers seated in pods shooting through a tube above the ground will become a reality by 2020 — and change travel as we know it.

"We are not the train, we are not the car, we are not the plane," says Bibop Gresta, chairman of Hyperloop Transportation Technologies, one of several companies racing to build a prototype.

"It is a new mode of transportation," agrees Rob Lloyd, chief executive at competitor Hyperloop One. Both men were at the European rail transport fair Innotrans in Berlin this week, sketching out their vision of a future where huge distances will be bridged in mere minutes.

Researchers have long dreamt of beating air resistance-dramatically cutting the energy needed for high-speed transport-by moving vehicles through vacuum. But it was Musk, the PayPal magnate who has made big bets on rocketry with SpaceX and electric vehicles with Tesla, who breathed new life into the idea in 2013 with a paper outlining a "fifth mode of transport" that would link Los Angeles and San Francisco by tube. The cities are currently separated by five to six hours by road or one hour by plane—a trip Musk said could be cut to 30 minutes. Busy with his other ventures, Musk offered the idea for free to companies interested in developing it.

Virtual reality

The Hyperloop hopefuls at the trade show paint a picture of passengers entering a capsule resembling nothing so much

as a train carriage with virtual windows. Once all are aboard, the capsule's electric engines propel it down a tube almost completely emptied of air, floating slightly off the floor thanks to magnetic levitation to further cut down on friction. Travelers will feel forces similar to those experienced in a plane as the vehicle accelerates.

On its website, Hyperloop Transportation Technologies (HTT) predicts its pods will travel at up to 1,220 kilometers per hour (760 mph) — around half as fast again as an airliner. For now though, the only way to get a sense of future Hyperloop journeys is with a virtual reality headset at the Innotrans booths belonging to HTT or Canadian start-up Transpod. Via the goggles you can take a seat in a cabin lit by artificial sunlight with views of the outside on video screens. The firms also offer videos giving an idea of what the tubes mounted on pylons will look like.

California-based Hyperloop One has carried out preliminary tests of its propulsion system in the Nevada desert, and plans to bring its project to market in "2020-2021", vows engineering chief Josh Giegel. Transpod boss Sebastien Gendron says "our objective is that the product be ready for the market in 2020". HTT says it will be ready in 2019.

Stockholm to Helsinki in 28 minutes

Gendron believes Hyperloop systems could change modern life dramatically, as there would be no need to live densely packed in cities like Paris to keep commuting times down. With low prices-Hyperloop One suggests a 28-minute journey between Stockholm and Helsinki would cost just 25 euros (\$28) — added to zero emissions and high levels of safety thanks to the automated capsules and shelter from the weather, the Hyperloop boasts many theoretical advantages. — AFP

GRAB EXPANDS SELF-DRIVING CAR TRIAL

SINGAPORE: Southeast Asia's leading ride-hailing firm Grab yesterday teamed up with a US-based software developer to run a limited public trial of a self-driving car service in Singapore. Applications for free rides on the "robo-cars" opened on Friday, with the service expected to kick off next week, Grab Singapore head Lim Kell Jay told journalists. The revolutionary technology will be used to ferry passengers as well as a safety driver and an engineer around One North, a research campus with limited traffic.

"If a trip requires travel on roads outside of One North, the safety driver will take control of the vehicle for that por-

tion of the trip," a joint statement by Grab and software company nuTonomy said. The partnership follows the September 15 launch of a groundbreaking driverless car service in the US city of Pittsburgh by Uber, the world's leading car-hailing company. The trial will run for the next two months, and may be extended for as long as it continues to yield useful feedback and data that can feed into the roll-out of driverless taxis across Singapore in 2018.

The announcement came three days after Singapore-based Grab said it had raised \$750 million in funding from investors, taking its total capital to more

than \$1.0 billion, as it looks to expand in the lucrative Southeast Asian market and bolster its lead over Uber. But Uber's launch of a driverless car service last week catapulted it ahead of Detroit auto giants and Silicon Valley rivals with technology that could revolutionise transportation.

In an ambitious experiment, a fleet of cars laden with lasers, cameras and other sensors-but with no hands on the wheel-were deployed on Pittsburgh's challenging roads, steering themselves to pick up passengers. In addition to Uber and Grab, Google's parent company Alphabet is also working on getting self-driving vehicles to market.

Grab's Singapore trials are backed by the wealthy city-state's government. But Karl Iagnemma, chief executive and co-founder of nuTonomy, brushed off suggestions that the launch was timed to take the shine off Uber's Pittsburgh success. "My strong belief of what we're going to see is the emergence of multiple regional winners," Iagnemma said. Competition between Uber and local startups has grown fierce in Southeast Asia, home to more than 600 million people and a rising middle class. Grab operates in Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam. — AFP

BBC FIRST

- 00:15 Doctors
- 00:45 New Tricks
- 01:40 DCI Banks
- 02:30 The Kettering Incident
- 03:20 Hunderby
- 03:45 Friday Night Dinner
- 04:05 New Tricks
- 05:00 Doctors
- 08:30 Eastenders
- 10:30 The Musketeers
- 13:10 Casualty
- 14:00 Doctors
- 15:00 Dickensian
- 18:00 Doctors
- 18:30 Eastenders
- 19:05 New Tricks
- 20:00 Death In Paradise
- 21:00 Death In Paradise
- 21:55 Unforgotten
- 22:45 Luther
- 23:40 Doctors

COMEDY CENTRAL

- 00:00 Inside Amy Schumer
- 00:25 Kyle Kinane: Whiskey Icarus
- 01:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
- 02:05 Another Period
- 02:30 Broad City
- 03:00 Lip Sync Battle
- 04:40 Ridiculousness
- 05:30 Frankenfood
- 06:20 Ridiculousness
- 08:30 Workaholics
- 09:20 Tosh.0
- 10:10 Catch A Contractor
- 10:35 Ridiculousness
- 11:50 Catch A Contractor
- 13:05 Workaholics
- 13:55 Tosh.0
- 14:45 Workaholics

- 15:35 Tosh.0
- 17:25 Workaholics
- 17:50 Ridiculousness
- 19:27 Workaholics
- 19:50 Lip Sync Battle
- 21:00 The Daily Show - Global Edition
- 21:30 South Park
- 21:54 Broad City
- 22:18 John Oliver's New York Stand Up Show
- 23:05 Inside Amy Schumer
- 23:30 The Daily Show - Global Edition

FINE LIVING

- 00:10 Hawaii Life
- 00:35 Beachfront Bargain Hunt
- 01:00 House Hunters
- 01:55 Island Life
- 02:20 Restoration SOS Detroit
- 03:10 Fixer Upper
- 04:05 Caribbean Life
- 04:30 Hawaii Life
- 04:55 Extreme Homes
- 05:45 House Hunters
- 06:35 Beachfront Bargain Hunt
- 07:00 House Hunters
- 07:50 Giada At Home
- 08:40 Healthy Gourmet
- 09:30 Killer Kitchen Makeover
- 10:25 Caribbean Life
- 10:50 Hawaii Life
- 11:15 Rehab Addict
- 12:10 Flip Or Flop
- 13:00 House Hunters
- 13:50 Fixer Upper
- 14:45 Platinum Weddings
- 15:35 Rachel Hunter's Tour Of Beauty
- 16:25 Flea Market Flip
- 17:15 Vacation House For Free
- 18:05 Flip Or Flop
- 19:00 Beachfront Bargain Hunt
- 19:55 House Hunters
- 20:45 Hawaii Life
- 21:10 Caribbean Life

- 21:35 Island Life
- 22:00 Island Hunters
- 22:55 Platinum Weddings
- 23:45 Caribbean Life

Syfy HD

- 00:10 Eureka
- 04:20 Killjoys
- 05:10 Face Off
- 06:00 Stargate SG-1
- 10:10 Smallville
- 14:30 Snowmageddon
- 16:00 Dark Matter
- 16:50 Face Off
- 17:40 Sanctuary
- 19:25 Collision Earth
- 21:00 Waterworld
- 23:20 The Mummy: Tomb Of The Dragon Emperor

TLC HD

- 00:20 An Hour To Save Your Life
- 01:10 Surgery Ship
- 02:00 Last Chance Salon
- 02:50 Monsters Inside Me
- 03:35 My Big Fat Fabulous Life
- 04:20 Toddlers & Tiaras
- 06:00 Kate Plus 8
- 08:30 Buddy's Family Vacation
- 09:20 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
- 10:10 Bakery Boss
- 11:50 Say Yes To The Dress
- 14:45 Say Yes To The Dress: The Big Day
- 15:35 My Big Fat Fabulous Life
- 17:40 Oprah: Where Are They Now?
- 19:20 Holiday Hijack
- 20:10 Buddy's Family Vacation
- 21:00 Oprah: Where Are They Now?

- 21:50 Oprah Prime
- 22:40 Monsters Inside Me
- 23:30 Diagnose Me

food network

- 00:00 Cutthroat Kitchen
- 01:00 BBQ Crawl
- 02:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 03:00 Man Fire Food
- 04:00 Chopped
- 05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
- 06:00 Man Fire Food
- 07:00 Chopped
- 08:00 Amazing Wedding Cakes
- 09:00 The Kitchen
- 10:00 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts
- 11:00 The Pioneer Woman
- 12:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 14:00 Chopped
- 15:00 Man Fire Food
- 16:00 Guy's Big Bite
- 16:30 Guy's Big Bite
- 17:00 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts
- 18:00 Paul Hollywood - City Bakes
- 19:00 Chopped
- 20:00 Kids Baking Championships
- 21:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 22:00 Paul Hollywood - City Bakes
- 23:00 Chopped

OSN FIRST HD COMEDY

- 00:30 The Simpsons
- 01:00 The Simpsons
- 01:30 Getting On
- 02:00 The Big C
- 02:30 The Big C
- 03:00 Superstore
- 03:30 The Goldbergs
- 04:00 Living With Fran
- 04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 05:30 George Lopez
- 06:00 The Bernie Mac Show
- 06:30 \$#!* My Dad Says
- 07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 08:00 Living With Fran
- 08:30 George Lopez
- 09:00 Superstore
- 09:30 The Goldbergs
- 10:00 New Girl
- 10:30 \$#!* My Dad Says
- 11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 12:00 The Bernie Mac Show
- 12:30 Living With Fran
- 13:00 George Lopez
- 13:30 Suburgatory
- 14:00 The Goldbergs
- 14:30 The Goldbergs
- 15:00 New Girl
- 15:30 The Simpsons
- 16:00 The Simpsons
- 16:30 The Bernie Mac Show
- 17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 18:00 The Mindy Project
- 18:30 The Mindy Project
- 19:00 Baby Daddy
- 19:30 Fresh Off The Boat
- 20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 21:00 The Simpsons
- 21:30 The Simpsons
- 22:00 Saturday Night Live
- 23:00 Last Man Standing
- 23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers

OSN FIRST HD

- 00:05 House Of Cards
- 01:00 The Blacklist Special
- 02:00 Survivor: Millennials vs Generation X
- 03:00 Outlander
- 04:00 Good Morning America
- 06:00 The Amazing Race
- 07:00 C.S.I. Cyber
- 08:00 Stitchers
- 09:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 10:00 The Amazing Race
- 11:00 C.S.I. Cyber
- 12:00 Stitchers
- 13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 14:00 Marvel's Agent Carter
- 15:00 Live Good Morning America
- 16:00 Grey's Anatomy
- 17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 18:00 Stitchers
- 19:00 The Amazing Race
- 20:00 The Blacklist
- 21:00 C.S.I. Cyber
- 22:00 The Last Kingdom
- 23:00 Mad Dogs

OSN FIRST +2

- 00:00 Survivor: Millennials vs Generation X
- 01:00 Outlander
- 02:05 House Of Cards
- 03:00 The Blacklist Special
- 04:00 Survivor: Millennials vs Generation X
- 05:00 Outlander
- 06:00 Good Morning America
- 08:00 The Amazing Race
- 09:00 C.S.I. Cyber
- 10:00 Stitchers
- 11:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 12:00 The Amazing Race
- 13:00 C.S.I. Cyber
- 14:00 Stitchers
- 15:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 16:00 Marvel's Agent Carter
- 17:00 Live Good Morning America
- 18:00 Grey's Anatomy
- 19:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 20:00 Stitchers
- 21:00 The Amazing Race
- 22:00 The Blacklist
- 23:00 C.S.I. Cyber

OSN FIRST HD Home of HBO

- 00:00 American Crime Story: The People vs O.J. Simpson
- 01:00 Six Feet Under
- 02:00 True Blood
- 03:00 P. Diddy Presents Bad Boys Of Comedy
- 03:30 P. Diddy Presents Bad Boys Of Comedy
- 04:00 The Knick
- 05:00 Sometimes In April
- 07:30 Dancing In September
- 09:30 Longford
- 11:00 The Jack Bull
- 13:00 Taking Chance
- 14:45 61*
- 17:00 The Jack Bull
- 19:00 American Crime Story: The People vs O.J. Simpson
- 20:00 Six Feet Under
- 21:00 Eastbound & Down
- 21:30 High Maintenance
- 22:00 Quarry
- 23:00 Angry Boys
- 23:30 Getting On

STAR WORLD HD

- 00:00 Switched At Birth
- 01:00 Mom vs. Matchmaker
- 02:00 Married At First Sight
- 05:00 All Hail The Veil
- 06:00 How I Met Your Mother
- 06:30 How I Met Your Mother
- 07:00 Making Mr.Right
- 08:00 Cedar Cove
- 09:00 Cedar Cove
- 10:00 Married At First Sight
- 13:00 All Hail The Veil
- 14:00 Da Vinci's Demons
- 15:00 Transporter: The Series
- 16:00 Grey's Anatomy
- 17:00 Fit For Fashion
- 18:00 The Bridge
- 20:00 Project Accessory
- 21:00 Fit For Fashion
- 22:00 Switched At Birth

itv hd CHOICE

- 00:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?
- 01:00 Catchphrase
- 01:30 Emmerdale
- 03:55 Coronation Street
- 06:00 Catchphrase
- 06:35 Prince Philip: The Plot To Make A King
- 07:30 Victoria
- 08:25 Royal Stories
- 08:50 The Chase
- 09:40 The Jonathan Ross Show
- 10:30 Murdoch Mysteries
- 11:20 Murdoch Mysteries
- 12:15 Grantchester
- 13:10 Tonight At The London Palladium
- 14:05 Prince Philip: The Plot To Make A King
- 15:00 Royal Stories
- 15:30 Victoria
- 16:20 The Jonathan Ross Show

- 17:10 Paul O'grady's Animal Orphans
- 18:05 Prince Philip: The Plot To Make A King
- 19:00 Grantchester
- 19:55 Tonight At The London Palladium
- 20:50 Paul O'grady's Animal Orphans
- 21:45 The Jonathan Ross Show
- 22:40 Coronation Street
- 23:10 Coronation Street
- 23:35 Coronation Street

OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

- 00:00 Afterparty
- 02:00 The Borderlands
- 04:00 Grosse Pointe Blank
- 06:00 In The Name Of The King: The Last Mission
- 08:00 Reclaim
- 10:00 Seventh Son
- 12:00 First Response
- 14:00 In The Name Of The King: The Last Mission
- 16:00 Freezer
- 17:45 Seventh Son
- 19:45 The Expendables 3
- 22:00 Constantine

OSN MOVIES ACTION +2

- 02:00 Afterparty
- 04:00 The Borderlands
- 06:00 Grosse Pointe Blank
- 08:00 In The Name Of The King: The Last Mission
- 10:00 Reclaim
- 12:00 Seventh Son
- 14:00 First Response
- 16:00 In The Name Of The King: The Last Mission
- 18:00 Freezer
- 19:45 Seventh Son
- 21:45 The Expendables 3

OSN MOVIES DRAMA

- 01:00 Cas & Dylan
- 03:00 Serena
- 05:00 The Silent Mountain
- 07:00 A Mother Betrayed
- 09:00 Before I Disappear
- 11:00 Cas & Dylan
- 13:00 Young Ones
- 15:00 Every Thing Will Be Fine
- 17:00 Before I Disappear
- 19:00 Fury
- 21:30 Cake
- 23:30 Maps To The Stars

OSN MOVIES HD FAMILY

- 01:00 The Princess Diaries
- 03:00 Jem And The Holograms
- 05:00 Toy Story 3
- 07:00 Hotel For Dogs
- 09:00 The Lone Ranger
- 11:30 Wreck-It Ralph
- 13:15 Home
- 15:00 Eight Below
- 17:00 Black Beauty
- 19:00 The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement
- 21:00 Homeward Bound: The Incredible Journey
- 23:00 Eight Below

OSN MOVIES HD

- 01:15 Absolutely Anything
- 03:00 Tomorrowland
- 05:15 Barely Lethal
- 07:00 Love, Rosie
- 09:00 Tomorrowland
- 11:30 The Duff
- 13:30 The Finest Hours
- 15:45 Far From The Madding Crowd
- 17:45 Paper Towns
- 19:45 Spy
- 22:00 The Stanford Prison Experiment

OSN MOVIES HD +2

- 01:00 Terminator Genisys
- 03:15 Absolutely Anything



SEVENTH SON ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2016

- 05:00 Tomorrowland
- 07:15 Barely Lethal
- 09:00 Love, Rosie
- 11:00 Tomorrowland
- 13:30 The Duff
- 15:30 The Finest Hours
- 17:45 Far From The Madding Crowd
- 19:45 Paper Towns
- 21:45 Spy

OSN MOVIES HD
COMEDY

- 00:00 Role Models
- 01:45 Julie And Julia
- 04:00 Caveman
- 06:00 Passed Away
- 08:00 Romy And Michelle's High School Reunion
- 10:00 Caveman
- 11:45 Julie And Julia
- 14:00 Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey
- 16:00 Romy And Michelle's High School Reunion
- 18:00 Sweet Home Alabama
- 20:00 The Proposal
- 22:00 The Wedding Ringer

OSN MOVIES HD
FESTIVAL

- 01:00 I Origins
- 03:00 About Time
- 05:30 Blackfish
- 07:30 Stone Markers
- 09:00 Listen To Me Marlon
- 11:00 Breathe In
- 13:00 Late Bloomers
- 15:00 Veronica Guerin
- 17:00 Listen To Me Marlon
- 19:00 Testament Of Youth
- 21:30 The Sixth Sense
- 23:30 Gainsbourg: A Heroic Life

OSN MOVIES HD
KIDS

- 01:00 True Story Of Puss'n Boots
- 02:45 Ploddy Police Car On The Case
- 04:15 Worms
- 06:00 The Wild Thornberrys Movie
- 08:00 Blackie And Kanuto
- 10:00 The Nutcracker Sweet
- 11:30 Vampire Dog
- 13:15 Ploddy Police Car On The Case
- 14:45 The Heart Of The Oak
- 16:15 The Flintstones & WWE: Stone Age Smackdown
- 18:00 The Nutcracker Sweet
- 20:00 The Boxcar Children
- 22:00 The Heart Of The Oak
- 23:30 The Flintstones & WWE: Stone Age Smackdown

OSN MOVIES HD
PREMIERE

- 00:00 The Taking Of Deborah Logan
- 02:00 Tracers
- 04:00 Metallica: Through The Never
- 06:00 Hello Carter
- 08:00 The Giver
- 10:00 Android Cop
- 12:00 The Scorpion King 4: Quest For Power
- 14:00 Breathless
- 16:00 The Giver
- 18:00 Hector And The Search For Happiness
- 20:00 Whiplash
- 22:00 The Visit

OSN MOVIES
PREMIERE +2

- 00:00 Lost River
- 02:00 The Taking Of Deborah Logan
- 04:00 Tracers
- 06:00 Metallica: Through The Never
- 08:00 Hello Carter
- 10:00 The Giver
- 12:00 Android Cop
- 14:00 The Scorpion King 4: Quest For Power
- 16:00 Breathless
- 18:00 The Giver
- 20:00 Hector And The Search For Happiness
- 22:00 Whiplash



THE EXPENDABLES 3 ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD



- 02:00 Venom
- 03:45 Half Light
- 05:45 Unbreakable
- 07:45 Pearl Harbor
- 10:45 Hamlet
- 12:45 Maleficent
- 14:30 The Woman In Black
- 16:15 Face Off
- 18:30 Venom
- 20:00 Nothing But The Truth
- 22:00 Man To Man



- 01:10 Listen Up Philip
- 03:00 Five Star
- 04:20 Amerikan Passport
- 05:50 Vegalta: Soccer,
- Tsunami/Hope/A Nation
- 07:00 All On The Line
- 08:00 For Ellen
- 09:35 My Effortless Brilliance
- 11:00 Good Night, Good Luck
- 12:35 Tiny Furniture
- 14:15 I Am Not A Hipster
- 15:45 Movie Talk
- 16:10 My Effortless Brilliance
- 17:35 For Ellen
- 19:10 Good Night, Good Luck
- 20:45 Unzipped
- 22:00 Dior And I
- 23:30 Crazy About Tiffany's



- 00:00 The Haunting Of...
- 01:00 My Haunted House
- 02:00 Married, Single, Dead
- 03:00 I Killed My BFF
- 04:00 The Haunting Of...
- 05:00 My Haunted House
- 06:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
- 07:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
- 08:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
- 09:00 Gangs Of Britain...
- 10:00 Gangs Of Britain...
- 11:00 Britain's Biggest Heists
- 12:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
- 13:00 The First 48
- 17:00 Monster In My Family
- 18:00 Ms. Murder
- 19:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder
- Casebook

- 20:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder
- Casebook
- 21:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder
- Casebook
- 22:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
- 23:00 Sex, Fame And Murder



- 00:30 Science Of The Movies
- 01:20 The Big Brain Theory
- 02:10 Bionic Builders
- 03:00 Destroyed In Seconds
- 03:50 Ultimate Survival
- 04:40 How It's Made
- 05:30 Storm Chasers
- 06:20 Mythbusters
- 07:00 Doki
- 07:25 Doki
- 07:50 Adventure 8: Zoo Games
- 08:15 Adventure 8: Zoo Games
- 08:40 My Cat From Hell
- 12:50 Mythbusters
- 17:00 Science Of The Movies
- 18:40 The Big Brain Theory
- 19:30 Bionic Builders
- 20:20 Risking It All
- 21:10 Guinness World Records
- Smashed UK
- 22:00 Destroyed In Seconds
- 23:40 One Giant Leap



- 00:10 4 Babies A Second
- 01:00 Myigrations
- 02:00 Man Hunt
- 02:55 World's Weirdest
- 03:50 Save The Titanic With Bob Ballard
- 04:45 Breakthrough
- 05:40 Yukon Gold
- 06:35 Myigrations
- 07:30 Untamed Americas
- 08:25 Dog Whisperer
- 09:20 Dog Whisperer
- 10:15 Monster Fish
- 11:10 Cold Water Gold
- 12:05 Going Deep With David Rees
- 12:30 Going Deep With David Rees
- 13:00 Innovation Nation
- 13:30 Innovation Nation
- 14:00 Machine Impossible
- 15:00 Malaysian Journey
- 16:00 World's Most Extreme
- 17:00 Mega Factories
- 18:00 Monster Fish
- 19:00 Cold Water Gold
- 20:00 World's Most Extreme
- 20:50 Mega Factories

- 21:40 Monster Fish
- 22:30 Cold Water Gold
- 23:20 World's Most Extreme



- 00:20 Hippo vs Croc
- 01:10 World's Deadliest Animals
- 02:00 Wild Indonesia (2015)
- 02:50 Ultimate Animals
- 03:45 Amur: Asia's Amazon
- 04:40 1000 Days For The Planet
- 05:35 Hunter Hunted
- 06:30 Monster Fish
- 07:25 Hooked
- 08:20 Animal ER
- 09:15 Baby Animals In The Wild
- 10:10 Make You Laugh Out Loud
- 11:05 Fish Tank Kings
- 12:00 Global Whale Shark Mystery
- 12:55 Wild Islands
- 13:50 Ultimate Animals
- 14:45 Amur: Asia's Amazon
- 15:40 1000 Days For The Planet
- 16:35 Caught In The Act
- 17:30 Dangerous Encounters
- 18:25 Animals Gone Wild
- 19:20 Amur: Asia's Amazon
- 20:10 1000 Days For The Planet
- 21:00 Caught In The Act
- 21:50 Dangerous Encounters
- 22:40 Animals Gone Wild
- 23:30 Global Whale Shark Mystery



- 00:30 How Do They Do It?
- 00:55 Food Factory
- 01:20 Bigger, Better, Faster, Stronger
- 02:10 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 03:00 Mega Builders
- 03:48 Mythbusters
- 04:36 Bigger, Better, Faster, Stronger
- 05:00 Bigger, Better, Faster, Stronger
- 05:24 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 06:12 How Do They Do It?
- 06:36 Food Factory
- 07:00 How Do They Do It?
- 07:26 Food Factory
- 09:26 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 13:26 How Do They Do It?
- 15:26 Extreme Engineering
- 16:14 Strip The City
- 17:02 Super Skyscrapers
- 17:50 Alaska Mega Machines
- 18:40 Mega Builders
- 19:30 Mythbusters
- 223:40 Extreme Engineering



- 00:00 Violetta
- 00:45 The Hive
- 00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 01:40 Hank Zipzer
- 02:05 Binny And The Ghost
- 02:30 Violetta
- 03:15 The Hive
- 03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 03:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 04:10 Hank Zipzer
- 04:35 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 05:00 Violetta
- 05:45 The Hive
- 05:50 Mouk
- 06:00 Jessie
- 06:25 Jessie
- 06:50 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 07:15 Tsum Tsum Shorts
- 07:20 Liv And Maddie
- 07:45 Bunk'd
- 08:10 Austin & Ally
- 08:35 Backstage
- 09:00 Alex & Co.
- 09:25 Girl Meets World
- 09:50 Stuck In The Middle
- 10:15 Disney Cookabout
- 10:40 Adventures In Babysitting
- 12:15 Star Darlings
- 12:20 Bizaardvark
- 12:45 Bunk'd
- 14:25 Jessie
- 14:50 Jessie
- 15:15 Dog With A Blog
- 15:40 Dog With A Blog
- 16:05 Descendants Wicked World
- 16:10 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 16:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 17:00 Gravity Falls
- 17:25 Ratatouille
- 19:25 Star Darlings
- 19:30 Disney Cookabout
- 19:55 Liv And Maddie
- 20:20 Best Friends Whenever
- 20:45 Good Luck Charlie
- 21:10 H2O: Just Add Water
- 21:35 H2O: Just Add Water
- 22:00 Binny And The Ghost
- 22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 22:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 23:10 Hank Zipzer
- 23:35 Binny And The Ghost



- 00:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 00:36 Max & Shred
- 01:00 The Haunted Hathaways
- 01:24 Sanjay And Craig
- 01:48 Sanjay And Craig
- 02:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 02:36 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 03:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 03:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 03:48 Henry Danger
- 04:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 04:36 The Haunted Hathaways
- 05:00 Max & Shred
- 05:24 Henry Danger
- 05:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 06:36 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 07:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 07:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 07:48 Winx Club
- 08:12 Harvey Beaks
- 08:36 Breadwinners
- 09:00 Get Blake
- 09:24 Rabbids Invasion
- 09:48 Henry Danger
- 10:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 10:36 The Haunted Hathaways
- 11:00 Winx Club
- 11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 11:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 12:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 12:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 13:00 Breadwinners
- 13:24 The Loud House
- 13:48 Harvey Beaks
- 14:12 Lost In The West I
- 15:00 Lost In The West II
- 15:48 Lost In The West III
- 16:36 The Loud House
- 17:00 Sanjay And Craig
- 17:24 Harvey Beaks
- 17:48 Breadwinners
- 18:12 Henry Danger
- 18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 19:00 100 Things To Do Before High School
- 19:24 Game Shakers
- 19:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 20:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 21:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 21:24 Breadwinners
- 21:48 Breadwinners
- 22:12 Sanjay And Craig
- 22:36 Sanjay And Craig
- 23:00 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 23:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 23:48 Henry Danger

Museum to Home: Collections inspire design and decor

When you visit a museum exhibit, you might be so taken by an item - a striking textile, say, or a cool artwork - that you'd love to actually own it. Museums are feeling you. Many have robust licensing programs with design firms and manufacturers to reproduce patterns or use artifacts as inspiration for new designs. Cultural institutions see these partnerships as a way to broaden their exposure and fund ongoing work. Home decorators appreciate the opportunity to incorporate items that are often imbued with historical or cultural provenance.

Ruth Shapiro, spokesman for New York's Museum of Modern Art, says licensing serves multiple purposes. "It's a powerful way to extend MoMA's brand and educational mission, it enables us to engage with new audiences, and it generates an ongoing revenue stream that provides valuable funding for the Museum," she says. Profits from the museum's retail arm go back into programming and exhibitions. Gilbert Baker's 1978 "Rainbow Flag," which has become a symbol of the gay pride movement, recently became not only part of MoMA's permanent collection, but part of its gift shop collection.

Home accessories

Imagery from Roy Lichtenstein's 1983 "Green Street Mural" and 1967's "Modern Painting with Bolt" appear on scarves. A watch features detail from one of Jackson Pollock's last paintings, 1954's "White Light." MoMA has the US rights to distribute a set of home accessories featuring artwork by Rene Magritte; a collection of melamine plates using the images is at Fab.com. In 2014, MoMA teamed with Uniqlo to showcase the work of artists like Warhol, Basquiat, Mondrian and Haring, and that program continues. "This partnership has been really exciting for MoMA," says Shapiro. "It's one of the first times we've licensed artwork from our collection to be used on apparel and accessories." Museum curators work closely with Uniqlo, she says, selecting themes and approving products and packaging.



A watch inspired by Jackson Pollock's "White Light."



Photo shows one of their jacquard upholstery fabrics inspired by an ancestral Pueblo pot dating 1000-1200 AD from the Museum of New Mexico's collection. — AP photos

The Museum of New Mexico, which is composed of four distinct institutions, including the Museum of Indian Arts & Culture and Museum of International Folk Art, has license arrangements with several home furnishings companies. "New Mexico has always attracted adventurers and artists (who) have given generously to our museums," says Pamela Kelly, spokesman for the Museum Foundation.



This undated photo Courtesy provided by Hickory Chair shows a chest adapted from a ceremonial chest at the Museum of New Mexico.

Given material

"The majority of the pieces held in our museums are one of a kind because they were made for ceremony, celebration or daily use. Because so much of our material is culturally based, we ask our licensees not to 'reproduce' any given material, but instead to find inspiration in it and adapt it in such a way that the elements of the original piece are evident, but a new work of art or form is created," she says. Last spring, Atlanta rug maker Jaipur Living was inspired by the Museum of New Mexico's extensive Kuba cloth collection.



This undated photo Courtesy provided by Hickory Chair shows their Alexander Tight Back Sofa which is adapted from a 19th century image from The Cabinet Dictionary.



This undated photo Courtesy of MoMA shows a scarf inspired by Roy Lichtenstein's Greene Street Mural.

"These fantastic, graphically rich patterns were interpreted by our designers and then made into rugs using sustainable fibers," says Jaipur's president, Asha Chaudhary. North Carolina-based Valdese Weavers is another Museum of New Mexico licensee. Its Puebloan jacquard upholstery fabric was inspired by an ancestral pot from 1000-1200 AD. Capturing the original ridged surface and a sense of the artifact's long life involved watercolor painting, digital scanning and weaving, using cotton and chenille yarns to mimic the textile's weathered surface.

Dining table

Hickory Chair Furniture has licensing deals with the Museum of New Mexico and with Winterthur, the former Delaware home of Henry Francis DuPont that's now a museum of decorative arts. Hickory's collection includes the elegant Alexander sofa, adapted from a design found in a Thomas Sheraton book in the home's library, and a dining table with Chinoiserie motifs drawn from a wall covering. "The true essence of the designs would be lacking without the insight gleaned from working directly with the Museum," said company spokesman Skip Rumley. — AP



Birthday wishes

Happy birthday to Trishan, who celebrated his 5th birthday on Thursday. We wish you good health and happiness throughout your life. Best wishes from father Abul Quyum Khanhr, mother Abdul Quyum, relatives and friends.



This undated photo provided by The Metropolitan Museum of Art shows the Oval Box; American, 1800-1900. — AP photos

'Simple Gifts': Met exhibit explores Shaker design

The Shakers, an industrious and pious New England sect that rose to prominence in the 19th century but whose membership has now dwindled from thousands to three, have long had an outsized influence on design and designers. A new installation at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, "Simple Gifts: Shaker at the Met," explores Shaker furniture and textiles and their impact. The installation, which opened this summer, remains on view through June 25, 2017.

The Shakers arrived from England in 1774 and saw industriousness as a way of praising God. They embraced communal property, communal living, and racial and gender equality, all radical concepts at the time. Their furniture, while streamlined and functional, also conveys a modern sensibility. "They worked very hard to design their furniture according to the golden mean of proportion, and features like graduated drawers were designed using complex calculations," said Michael Graham, director of the SabbathDay Lake Shaker Museum in Gloucester, Maine, site of the only remaining Shaker community. "It had clean lines, but was not at all simple."

Ready-made fabrics

Unlike some religious sects, the Shakers were far from insular. They were brilliant at marketing, selling their goods through catalogs and in resort communities along the East Coast, said Alyce Perry Englund, assistant curator of American Decorative Arts at the Met, who curated the installation. Their pragmatism and quest for efficiency led them to use lathes to produce turned chair spindles, and in some cases they made clothing using ready-made fabrics, she said. They borrowed ideas they found useful, such as a revolving chair from 1851 that was a precursor to modern ergonomic office chairs. An 1855 piano stool using the same technology and a revolving Shaker chair sit side by side in the installation.

The Shakers added tilting discs to chairs' back legs to make them easier to lean back in; put wheels on beds to facilitate cleaning under them; and commonly used a series of pegs set in rails high on a wall to hang chairs and keep them out of the way when they weren't in use. They designed one of the earliest known wrinkle-free waterproof fabrics, and came up with paper envelopes as a way to sell seeds in small quantities, Graham said. Their cupboards, while void of inlays and other popular adornments of their time, were not rustic so much as intentionally organized, with an eye to geometric lines over fussy distractions, Englund said. The focus was on expert joinery and high-quality streamlined pieces.

The first gallery of the Met's installation focuses on Shaker furniture design and includes rocking chairs, a revolving chair and a cupboard from the 1800s. The second gallery focuses on textiles, including a rug, bonnet and dress, alongside furniture and boxes. The big surprise here is the bright colors. Although the popular image of Shaker furniture is of natural finishes, some Shaker chests and boxes of the 19th century come in red, blue and yellow washes. An oval rug dazzles in bright hues, and an otherwise unadorned bonnet features a thin strip of sky-blue piping in the back.

Modern furniture

The third and final gallery features a projection of "Appalachian Spring," a televised 1958 performance showing Martha Graham dancing to Aaron Copland's score, amid props by Modernist designer Isamu Noguchi. It is one of many intersections between Modernism and Shaker aesthetics. "The Shakers began selling their century-old furniture to buy more modern furniture for themselves, and to earn money for their



This undated photo provided by The Metropolitan Museum of Art shows the Revolving Chair; American, Shaker, 1840-70.

community, just as the Modernists were searching for inspiration in their quest for spare and functional design," Michael Graham said. — AP

New book brings Atlas Obscura site's wonders to printed page

An elf school in Iceland. A hospital for falcons in the Middle East. A museum in Independence, Missouri, for artwork made from hair. These are the types of attractions featured on the Atlas Obscura website, a fan favorite among curiosity-seeking travelers. Now the site is bringing its geeky and magical world of wonders to the printed page.

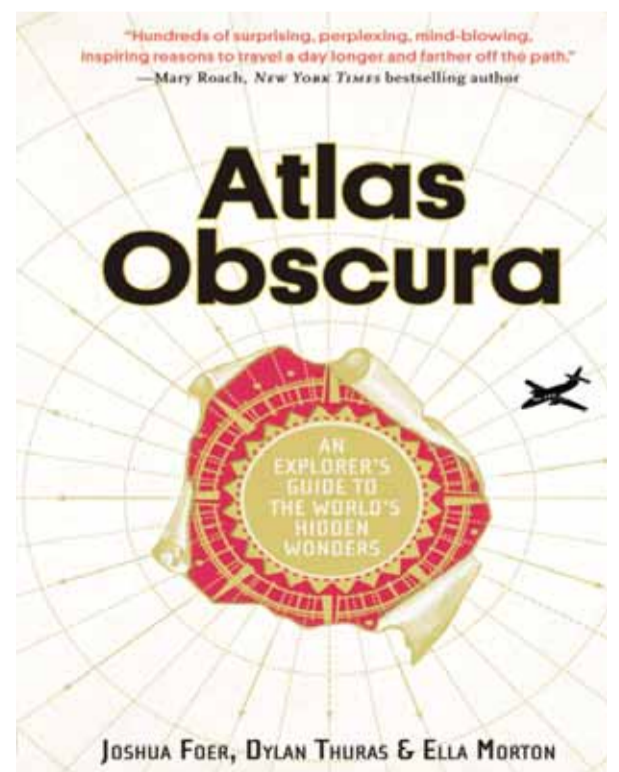
The new "Atlas Obscura" book offers a sampling of 700 of the website's 10,000 curious attractions, from a pile of rocks in Butte, Montana, that makes bell-tone rings when struck with a hammer, to the skulls and body parts on display at Philadelphia's Mutter Museum.

AtlasObscura.com was launched in 2009. Today it has over 5 million unique visitors a month and 12 million page views, along with over 120,000 registered users. But it's not the type of travel site that features infinity pools, five-star hotels and tasting menus. Instead, you're more likely to find macabre historic landmarks, mysterious natural wonders or odd cultural phenomena, like a Swedish university's collection of plaster-cast noses or Las Pozas park in Mexico, a subtropical garden filled with Surrealist sculptures.

The book is published by Workman, the company that published "1,000 Places to See Before You Die." Workman is billing "Atlas Obscura" as a "bucket-list guide to over 700 of the most curious, unusual, off-the-beaten path destinations from around the globe." Cover blurbs include this from Lena Dunham: "Atlas Obscura may be the only thing that can still inspire me to leave my apartment."

Why take Atlas Obscura out of the virtual world and onto the printed page? "There is nothing like a book," said Dylan Thurau, who founded the site with Joshua Foer. "It's hard to explain to people exactly what Atlas Obscura is, so we just felt like it would be so nice to distill this into a beautiful, physical object and be able to hand it to someone. Open it to any page and hopefully it gives people a sense of joy and wonder. For me, having worked in the ephemeral

medium of the internet for so long, to hold something in my hand and say this is the result of years of work, it feels satisfying." — AP



This image shows the cover of a new book that catalogues some of the intriguing places from around the world.

JAPAN TOBACCO TO ROLL OUT E-CIGARETTE NEXT YEAR

JAPAN: Japan Tobacco aims to start selling its Ploom Tech tobacco-based electronic cigarette in cities across Japan next year, it said yesterday, as it fights to catch up with bigger rival Philip Morris in meeting the growing demand for "vaping" products. Japan Tobacco, the world's third-largest tobacco company whose top brands include Winston, Mevius and Benson & Hedges, has invested heavily in expanding its production capacity for Ploom Tech tobacco capsules after it hit supply constraints in March following a test launch in the southern city of Fukuoka.

"Though we are not able to comment on the exact timing of the national launch in Japan due to the fast-changing demand, our intention is to expand, starting from the urban areas, step by step, from early next

year," Yasuhiro Nakajima, vice president of emerging products, said on the sidelines of an investor meeting in London yesterday. The company will have increased its capacity by four times by the end of this year and 10 times by the end of next year.

In August Marlboro maker Philip Morris International said its "heat not burn" tobacco product called iQOS had captured close to 3 percent of the Japanese tobacco market, making inroads in a country where Japan Tobacco makes 40 percent of its profits. All tobacco companies face falling volumes in developed markets due to higher taxes and growing health concerns.

Yet Japan Tobacco's near-term growth prospects are even more limited, Jefferies analysts said earlier this week, by its large

exposure to Japan and Russia, where there is less scope for the regular price increases that attract profit-hungry investors.

"We own tobacco stocks because they are high-quality, high-margin businesses that generate a lot of cash flow and the profit pool is still growing," said Jonathan Fell, portfolio manager of Ash Park Capital, which owns shares in Japan Tobacco. E-cigarettes could accelerate that growth in the long term but the global picture is as yet unclear as regulations differ in various countries. "It's a real wait-and-see thing at the moment," he said.

The global market for "vaping" products was worth about \$8 billion in 2015 and many public health specialists think e-cigarettes are a lower-risk alternative to smoking, but

some question their long-term safety. E-cigarettes made with tobacco are still a tiny portion of the market, and as such, Japan Tobacco executives said they could not predict their ultimate potential. The company has also introduced liquid-based e-cigarettes in markets like the United States and Britain, which together account for more than half the global e-cigarette market.

"We believe that addressing e-vapor and t-vapor at the same time is very, very important to be the winner in this entire emerging category," Nakajima told Reuters. The company also said on Friday its international business was well positioned to meet its forecast for full-year growth of 11.4 percent in profits, 8.1 percent in revenues and 2 percent in volumes. —Reuters

STUDY FINDS 20M WOULD LOSE HEALTH COVERAGE UNDER TRUMP PLAN

'THE PEOPLE WHO WOULD ACTUALLY GAIN COVERAGE TEND TO HAVE HIGHER INCOMES'

WASHINGTON: A new study that examines some major health care proposals from the presidential candidates finds that Donald Trump would cause about 20 million to lose coverage while Hillary Clinton would provide coverage for an additional 9 million people. The 2016 presidential campaign has brought voters to a crossroads on health care yet again. The US uninsured rate stands at a historically low 8.6 percent, mainly because of President Barack Obama's health care law, which expanded government and private coverage. Yet it's uncertain if the nation's newest social program will survive the election.

Republican candidate Trump would repeal "Obamacare" and replace it with a new tax deduction, insurance market changes, and a Medicaid overhaul. Democrat Clinton would increase financial assistance for people with private insurance and expand government coverage as well. The two approaches would have starkly different results, according to the Commonwealth Fund study released yesterday. The analysis was carried out by the RAND Corporation, a global research organization that uses computer simulation to test the potential effects of health care proposals. Although the New York-based Commonwealth Fund is nonpartisan, it generally supports the goals of increased coverage and access to health care.

Affordable Care Act

Economist Sara Collins, who heads the Commonwealth Fund's work on coverage and access, said RAND basically found that Trump's replacement plan isn't robust enough to make up for the insurance losses from repealing the Affordable Care Act. "Certainly it doesn't fully offset the effects of repeal," Collins said. One worrisome finding is that the number of uninsured people in fair or poor health could triple under Trump. It would rise from an estimated 2.1 million people under current laws to between 5.7 million and 7.1 million under Trump's approach, depending on which of his policy proposals was analyzed.

When uninsured people wind up in the hospital, the cost of their treatment gets shifted to others, including state and federal taxpayers. Trump has said he doesn't want people "dying on the street." The study panned one of Trump's main ideas: allowing insurers to sell private policies across state lines. Collins said insurers would cherry-pick the healthiest customers and steer them to skimpy plans. Other experts don't see it as bleakly, believing that interstate policies could attract customers through lower premiums.

A prominent Republican expert who reviewed the study for The Associated Press questioned some of its assumptions, but said the overall conclusion seems to be on target. "You could quibble about some of the modeling, but directionally I think it's right," said economist Douglas Holtz-Eakin, president of the American Action Forum, a center-right public policy center. Collins said the analysis examined some major proposals from each candidate, but did not test every idea.



PENNSYLVANIA: In this file photo, Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks during a campaign rally in Aston. —AP

Allowing policies

The Trump proposals included repealing the Obama health care law, as well as a host of replacement ideas consisting of a new income tax deduction for health insurance, allowing policies to be sold across state lines, and turning the Medicaid program for low-income people into a block grant, which would mean limiting federal costs. The study estimated that Trump's repeal of "Obamacare" would increase the number of uninsured people from 24.9 million to 44.6 million in 2018. But then his replacement proposals would have a push-pull effect. The tax deduction and interstate health insurance sales would help some stay covered, but the Medicaid block grant would make even more people uninsured.

"The people who would actually gain coverage tend to have higher incomes," said Collins. The result would be an estimated 45.1 million uninsured people in 2018 under Trump - an increase of 20.2 million, reversing the coverage gains under Obama. The Clinton proposals analyzed included a new tax credit for deductibles and copayments not covered by insurance, a richer formula for health law subsidies, a fix for the law's "family glitch" that can deny subsidies to some dependents, and a new government-sponsored "public option" health plan.

Taken together, the analysis estimated that Clinton's proposals would reduce the number of uninsured people in 2018 to 15.8 million, which translates to a gain of 9.1 million people with coverage. Not included were Clinton's idea for allowing middle-aged adults to buy into Medicare and her plan to convince more states to expand Medicaid. — AP

SINGAPORE CONSIDERS MONITORING PROGRAM FOR BABIES BORN TO WOMEN WITH ZIKA

SINGAPORE: Singapore is exploring plans to establish a national surveillance program to monitor the development of babies born to pregnant women infected with the Zika virus, the state-owned Channel NewsAsia (CNA) said yesterday.

Sixteen pregnant women have been confirmed to have the virus in Singapore, CNA said, quoting the Ministry of Health - a doubling of the eight cases reported on Sept. 11. CNA said the ministry was keeping close tabs on the women. While most people experience mild symptoms, Zika infections in pregnant women have been shown to cause microcephaly, a severe birth defect in which the head and brain are undersized. In adults, it can cause a rare neurological syndrome called Guillain-Barre.

Island city-state Singapore reported its first locally infected Zika patient on Aug 27, and since then the number of reported infections has risen to 387 as of yesterday. The virus is currently affecting large parts of Latin America and the Caribbean, with Brazil the hardest hit. It has also spread in other parts of Southeast Asia. —Reuters

SATELLITE TECHNOLOGY BEAMS EXPERTISE TO REMOTE ALASKA CLINIC

‘WE ARE GETTING THE SUPPORT WE NEED IN AN AUSTERE ENVIRONMENT’

ANCHORAGE, Alaska: The only clinic in one of the nation’s busiest commercial fishing ports is so remote that even conventional telemedicine for emergencies has been impossible for its limited staff - until this week. Starting Thursday, a new partnership with an Anchorage hospital will virtually beam critical care doctors 800 miles (1,287 kilometers) away to the emergency room on the island that holds Dutch Harbor, the operations base for the Bering Sea crabbing fleet made famous by the Discovery Channel show “Deadliest Catch.”

But instead of transmissions with fiber-optics, which are nowhere near isolated Unalaska Island, the team putting together the system is relying on satellite technology in what is believed to be a first in the country for telemedicine. The new connection is expected to boost outpatient care as needed by clinic staffers, including its two non-emergency doctors. The clinic, Iliuliuk Family and Health Services, brings to nine the number of providers served by the electronic intensive care unit at Anchorage’s Providence Alaska Medical Center. “We are kind of mix-mashing everything together to try to make this work,” Sharon Compton, services manager of Providence’s eICU office, said after a recent demonstration of the Dutch Harbor link. The new system will provide real-time camera links between emergency doctors and clinic staffers during medical emergencies, such as fishing industry injuries.

Recent demonstration

The idea is to help stabilize patients before



ALASKA: In this photo, intensive care unit nurse Deborah Springer in Anchorage, Alaska, demonstrates the focusing ability of a telemedicine camera that is part of a new telemedicine partnership between the Iliuliuk Family and Health Services on Unalaska Island and Providence Alaska Medical Center. —AP

transporting them out of town and to help with triage during major events like a ship sinking. From afar, doctors will be able to view X-rays and patient charts and talk directly with patients on camera instead of consulting with medics by phone and email. There are some unknowns about how the system will work, with likely slowdowns in satellite reception because of the region’s notoriously bad weather.

During the recent demonstration, pre-launch kinks prevented the rolling-cart-mounted camera in Dutch Harbor from being

pivoted remotely. But the camera otherwise performed impressively, sending back crystal-clear video of clinic staffers as they chatted with a critical care doctor. The new service was lauded by Seattle-based crabbing boat owner Lance Farr, who has been badly hurt twice in his decades of working in the Bering Sea. Several years ago, he almost severed a finger in a dockside engine accident. He was stabilized at the clinic before being flown to Anchorage for further treatment. In 1996, Farr broke his foot at Dutch Harbor after dropping an engine on it. He spent the night at the clin-

ic under the care of nurses before being flown out the next day.

In hindsight, having his care visually monitored by emergency room specialists would have provided a morale boost, as well as invaluable expertise, Farr said. “It would be a good thing, I would think, to have a real physician being able to advise the people out there,” he said. The city of Unalaska has just 4,600 year-round residents, but the population swells to 16,000 or more during the region’s two main fishing seasons, when boat crews and processing workers flood the town with dozens of languages and cultures. That means more potential for patients, including people who don’t speak English.

Pretty tough

The clinic averages more than 300 after-hours emergency room visits a year, with about a third of those patients flown elsewhere, often to Anchorage, for more complete treatment. Fishing-industry emergencies at sea can mean significant delays to appropriate medical treatments when the injured must first be carried by rescue helicopter to Dutch Harbor. Injuries can range from deep cuts and broken bones to back injuries and amputations. “These guys are pretty tough out here, and they will, you know, continue to fish until they can’t get out of bed anymore,” said James Novotny, nurse practitioner at the clinic. The drastically shifting population can put a strain on clinic staffing in this rural setting. So can the inability to afford emergency specialists or much in the way of diagnostic equipment. — AP

CLINIC

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 استشاري أطفال
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Kuwait CINEMA				KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (22/09/2016 TO 28/09/2016)			
SHARQIA-1		SULLY	2:45 PM	THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	7:00 PM		
		SULLY	4:45 PM	THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	9:45 PM		
		SULLY	6:45 PM	THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	12:30 AM		
		PETE'S DRAGON	9:45 PM				
		AL BAB YEFAWET AMAL	12:30 AM				
		ASHAN KHARGEN		AL-KOUT.2			
		AL BAB YEFAWET AMAL		THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	12:45 PM		
		SULLY		AL BAB YEFAWET AMAL	3:30 PM		
				PETE'S DRAGON	5:15 PM		
				ASHAN KHARGEN	7:30 PM		
				ASHAN KHARGEN	10:00 PM		
				ASHAN KHARGEN	12:15 AM		
SHARQIA-2		MARINA-1					
PETE'S DRAGON		SULLY	12:30 PM				
THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN		SNOWDEN	2:30 PM				
THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN		BEN-HUR	5:00 PM				
THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN		ASHAN KHARGEN	7:30 PM				
THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN		ASHAN KHARGEN	9:45 PM				
THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN		SULLY	12:05 AM				
		MARINA-2		AL-KOUT.3			
		THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	12:45 PM	BEN-HUR	12:00 PM		
		ASHAN KHARGEN	1:30 PM	BEN-HUR	2:15 PM		
		THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	3:30 PM	HAVENHURST	4:30 PM		
		THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	6:15 PM	LIGHTS OUT	6:15 PM		
		THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	9:00 PM	HAVENHURST	8:00 PM		
		THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	11:45 PM	HAVENHURST	10:00 PM		
				HAVENHURST	12:05 AM		
SHARQIA-3		MARINA-3		AL-KOUT.4			
THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS		THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	11:30 AM	SULLY	12:45 PM		
HAVENHURST		SULLY	2:15 PM	SULLY	2:45 PM		
THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS		PETE'S DRAGON	4:15 PM	HELLIONS	4:45 PM		
HAVENHURST		PETE'S DRAGON	6:30 PM	AL BAB YEFAWET AMAL	6:45 PM		
THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS		SULLY	8:45 PM	SULLY	8:45 PM		
HAVENHURST		HAVENHURST	10:45 PM	HELLIONS	10:45 PM		
HAVENHURST		THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	12:45 AM	HELLIONS	12:45 AM		
		AVENUES-1		BAIRAQ-1			
		LIGHTS OUT	12:00 PM	THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	12:30 PM		
		LIGHTS OUT	2:00 PM	THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	3:15 PM		
		PINK - Hindi	4:00 PM	THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	6:00 PM		
		OOZHAM - Malayalam	7:00 PM	THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	8:45 PM		
		BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	10:00 PM	THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	11:30 PM		
		BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	12:15 AM				
MUHALAB-1		AVENUES-2		BAIRAQ-2			
THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN		THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN -2D- 4DX	1:30 PM	PETE'S DRAGON	1:00 PM		
THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN		PETE'S DRAGON -3D- 4DX	4:15 PM	SULLY	1:30 PM		
AL BAB YEFAWET AMAL		PETE'S DRAGON -3D- 4DX	6:30 PM	PETE'S DRAGON	3:30 PM		
PETE'S DRAGON		THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN -2D- 4DX	8:45 PM	PETE'S DRAGON	5:45 PM		
AL BAB YEFAWET AMAL		THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN -2D- 4DX	11:30 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN	8:00 PM		
PETE'S DRAGON				ASHAN KHARGEN	10:15 PM		
AL BAB YEFAWET AMAL				ASHAN KHARGEN	12:30 AM		
HAVENHURST		AVENUES-3		BAIRAQ-3			
HAVENHURST		THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS	1:15 PM	AL BAB YEFAWET AMAL	12:30 PM		
		THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS	4:00 PM	SULLY	2:30 PM		
		THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS	6:45 PM	PINK - Hindi	4:45 PM		
		THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS	9:30 PM	AL BAB YEFAWET AMAL	7:30 PM		
		THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS	12:15 AM	AL BAB YEFAWET AMAL	9:15 PM		
				AL BAB YEFAWET AMAL	11:15 PM		
FANAR-1		360°- 1		PLAZA			
SULLY		THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS	12:15 PM	PINK - Hindi	3:30 PM		
THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS		THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS	3:00 PM	OOZHAM - Malayalam	6:30 PM		
PETE'S DRAGON		THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS	5:45 PM	THODARI- Tamil	9:30 PM		
THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS		THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS	8:30 PM	THU+FRI+MON			
THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS		THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS	11:15 PM	PINK - Hindi	9:30 PM		
THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS		Premiere Show "Bilal: A New Breed of Hero"	9:00 PM	NO THU+FRI+MON			
		THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS	11:45 PM				
FANAR-2		360° 2		LAILA			
AL BAB YEFAWET AMAL		AL BAB YEFAWET AMAL	12:15 PM	AL BAB YEFAWET AMAL	3:45 PM		
AL BAB YEFAWET AMAL		AL BAB YEFAWET AMAL	2:15 PM	PETE'S DRAGON	5:45 PM		
ASHAN KHARGEN		AL BAB YEFAWET AMAL	4:15 PM	THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	8:00 PM		
AL BAB YEFAWET AMAL		AL BAB YEFAWET AMAL	6:15 PM	THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	10:45 PM		
ASHAN KHARGEN		AL BAB YEFAWET AMAL	8:15 PM				
AL BAB YEFAWET AMAL		AL BAB YEFAWET AMAL	10:15 PM	AJIAL.1			
ASHAN KHARGEN		SNOWDEN	12:15 AM	IRU MUGAN - Tamil	3:30 PM		
				THU			
				THODARI- Tamil	3:30 PM		
				NO THU			
				THODARI- Tamil	6:45 PM		
				THODARI- Tamil	10:00 PM		
FANAR-3		360° 3		AJIAL.2			
HAVENHURST		SULLY	11:45 AM	PINK - Hindi	4:15 PM		
HAVENHURST		SULLY	2:00 PM	PINK - Hindi	7:00 PM		
HELLIONS		SULLY	4:30 PM	PINK - Hindi	9:45 PM		
PETE'S DRAGON		OOZHAM - Malayalam	6:45 PM				
HAVENHURST		SULLY	9:45 PM	AJIAL.3			
HELLIONS				BAAR BAAR DEKHO- Hindi	3:30 PM		
HAVENHURST				BAAR BAAR DEKHO- Hindi	6:30 PM		
THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN							
THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN							
THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN							
THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN							
THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN							
THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN							
FANAR-5		AL-KOUT.1					
SULLY		SULLY	11:30 AM				
		THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	1:30 PM				
		THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	4:15 PM				

Kuwait Times
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CHANGE OF NAME
I, Mrs Fatima Mary Lancy Fernandes daughter of Joseph Fernandes, holder of Indian Passport No: K4564810 & Civil ID No: 265011009768 has changed my name to Violet Mary D'souza hereinafter in all my dealings and documents, I will be known by name of Violet Mary D'souza. (C 5216) 22-9-2016


SITUATION WANTED
A well-qualified (MBA, CPA), Indian Finance Professional is looking for a change in job. 12 years of experience in Investment Banking, Real Estate & FMCG in the middle level position in Kuwait. Excellent communicator and adaptable. Please call 65094498. (C 5213) 21-9-2016

MATRIMONIAL
Alliance invited for a 28-year-old Marthoma boy with master degree in mechatronics from University of Victoria - Canada, and currently working in Canada. Proposal invited from parents of educational girls. Email: sobinthomas0007@gmail.com (C 5215) 22-9-2016

I T. Marimuthu S/o K. Thiyagarajan, holder of Indian Passport No: J0364840 and Civil ID No: 277062006098, has changed my name Farhan. Hereinafter in all my dealings and documents I will be known by name of Farhan. (C 5214) 21-92016

PRAYER TIMINGS

Fajr:	04:17
Shorook	05:37
Duhr:	11:41
Asr:	15:08
Maghrib:	17:44
Isha:	19:01



Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

Clinics

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

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2016



Flight Schedule

DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Saturday 24/9/2016

Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
MSC	415	Sohag	00:10
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10
JZR	239	Amman	00:20
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30
CLX	852	Luxembourg	00:35
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55
DLH	635	Doha	01:00
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20
SAI	441	Lahore	01:30
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
FEG	931	Alexandria	05:00
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15
JZR	529	Asyut	06:00
SYR	341	Damascus	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
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	07:35
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40
KAC	204	Lahore	07:40
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50
SVA	512	Riyadh	07:50
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:15
KAC	344	Chennai	08:15
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:00
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:00
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20
RJA	648	Amman	09:30
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40
SAW	703	Damascus	09:45
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40
IRM	1188	Mashhad	11:10
JZR	325	Al Najaf	11:20
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:30
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
JZR	241	Amman	12:30
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30
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
KNE	231	Riyadh	14:00
QTR	1078	Doha	14:05
MSR	575	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:15
FDB	057	Dubai	14:20
GFA	221	Bahrain	14:20
KAC	512	Mashhad	14:30
KAC	540	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:50
KAC	788	Jeddah	15:00
OMA	645	Muscat	15:10
ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:10
ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35
UAE	857	Dubai	15:45
NIA	251	Alexandria	15:50
RJA	640	Amman	16:00
FDB	051	Dubai	16:10
QTR	1072	Doha	16:15
JZR	535	Cairo	16:20
JZR	257	Beirut	16:25
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
GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30
JZR	357	Mashhad	17:30
JZR	177	Dubai	17:45
JZR	777	Jeddah	17:50
SVA	500	Jeddah	17:55
QTR	1080	Doha	17:55
KAC	176	Geneva/Frankfurt	18:20
MSR	620	Cairo	18:30
KAC	786	Jeddah	18:35
KAC	774	Riyadh	18:35

KAC	502	Beirut	18:35
CLX	856	Luxembourg	18:50
KAC	742	Dammam	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
KNE	381	Taif	20:10
MEA	402	Beirut	20:15
OMA	647	Muscat	20:20
JZR	189	Dubai	20:25
MSR	618	Alexandria	20:30
QTR	1088	Doha	20:35
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 24/9/2016

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
JZR	562	Sohag	00:30
MSR	615	Cairo	00:30
FDB	072	Dubai	00:30
PIA	240	Sialkot	00:40
KLM	413	Amsterdam	01:05
MSC	416	Sohag	01:05
JZR	502	Luxor	01:15
CLX	758	Hong Kong	01:25
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
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	771	Istanbul	06:45
GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
JZ	R240	Amman	06:55
SYR	342	Damascus	07:00
FDB	070	Dubai	07:05
JZR	164	Dubai	07:15
FDB	5062	Dubai	07:55
JZR	324	Al Najaf	07:55
BAW	156	London	08:25
FDB	054	Dubai	08:30
KAC	173	Munich	08:35
KAC	511	Mashhad	08:40
SVA	513	Riyadh	08:50
KAC	539	Sharm el-Sheikh	08:50
JZR	256	Beirut	09:05
KAC	671	Dubai	09:15
JZR	534	Cairo	09:30
KAC	787	Jeddah	09:30
ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45
UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
KAC	101	London/New York	10:00
ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:05
RJA	649	Amman	10:15

QTR	1071	Doha	10:35
FDB	056	Dubai	10:40
SAW	704	Damascus	10:45
KAC	501	Beirut	11:00
KAC	561	Amman	11:20
KAC	165	Rome/Paris	11:25
KAC	679	Muscat	11:25
GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35
JZR	356	Mashhad	11:40
KAC	541	Cairo	12:05
UAE	874	Dubai	12:10
RBG	554	Alexandria	12:10
JZR	776	Jeddah	12:15
IRM	1189	Mashhad	12:20
IRC	6512	ABD	12:40
FDK	802	Damascus	12:45
IAW	158	Al Najaf	12:55
KAC	785	Jeddah	13:00
AVV	652	Alexandria	13:05
FDB	076	Dubai	13:10
JZR	176	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
IRC	527	Mashhad	14:35
TBM	6314	Mashhad	14:40
PAL	669	Dubai/Manila	14:45
KNE	382	Taif	14:55
MSR	576	Sharm el-Sheikh	15:00
KAC	773	Riyadh	15:00
GFA	222	Bahrain	15:05
FDB	058	Dubai	15:05
KAC	673	Dubai	15:05
QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
KAC	617	Doha	15:15
KAC	741	Dammam	15:30
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
ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
KAC	563	Amman	16:30
NIA	252	Alexandria	16:50
RJA	641	Amman	16:55
FDB	052	Dubai	17:00
KAC	675	Dubai	17:00
JZR	266	Beirut	17:10
JZR	512	Sharm el-Sheikh	17:15
QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
IRA	666	Esfahan	18:10
SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
JZR	184	Dubai	18:20
SAW	706	Damascus	18:20
GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
JZR	538	Cairo	18:30
QTR	1081	Doha	19:05
JZR	238	Amman	19:15
JZR	124	Bahrain	19:20
SVA	505	Jeddah	19:25
MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
KAC	285	Dhaka	19:40
GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
ABY	124	Sharjah	19:55
KAC	361	Colombo	19:55
CLX	856	Hong Kong	20:20
JAV	622	Amman	20:25
FDB	060	Dubai	20:30
UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
JAI	571	Mumbai	20:35
KAC	331	Trivandrum	20:45
DLH	634	Doha	20:50
KAC	353	BLR	20:55
KAC	543	Cairo	21:00
KAC	351	Kochi	21:00
KNE	232	Riyadh	21:10
JZR	554	Alexandria	21:15
MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
OMA	648	Muscat	21:15
MSR	607	Luxor	21:30
QTR	1089	Doha	21:45
DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
FDB	5054	Dubai	21:55
ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	21:55
ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
UAE	860	Dubai	22:25
KLM	415	Dammam/Amsterdam	22:25
THY	1413	TZX	22:25
KAC	381	Delhi	22:25
KAC	301	Mumbai	22:30
KAC	345	Ahmedabad	22:55
KAC	205	Islamabad	23:00
GFA	220	Bahrain	23:00
ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:05
NIA	152	Cairo	23:10
FDB	8054	Dubai	23:15
KAC	155	Istanbul	23:15
QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
KAC	411	Bangkok/Manila	23:25

Word Search Puzzles

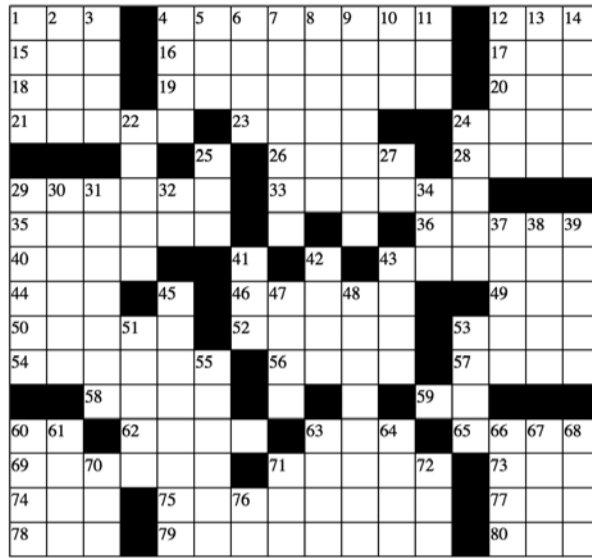
Types of Music 1

Find and circle all of the different types of music that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 14 letters spell an additional type of music.

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

- ACAPPELLA
- ACID ROCK
- ACOUSTIC
- AMBIENT
- AVANT-GARDE
- BIG BAND
- BLUEGRASS
- BROADWAY
- CABARET
- CHORAL
- CHRISTMAS CLASSIC ROCK
- DANCE
- DISCO
- ELECTRONICA
- FLAMENCO
- FOLK
- GANGSTA RAP
- GOthic
- HEAVY METAL
- HIP HOP
- INDIAN
- INDIE
- JAZZ
- LATIN MUSIC
- LOUNGE
- MERENGUE
- MEXICAN
- NEW WAVE
- POLKA
- PSYCHEDELIC
- PUNK
- ROCKABILLY
- SAMBA
- SOUL
- TANGO
- WALTZ
- WORLD

CROSSWORD 1380



ACROSS

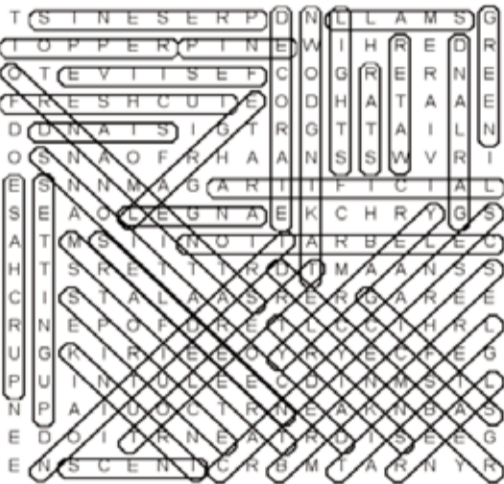
1. A condition (mostly in boys) characterized by behavioral and learning disorders.
4. Any of various edible North American web-footed turtles living in fresh or brackish water.
12. A Turkish unit of weight equal to about 2.75 pounds.
15. A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
16. Plants having flowers in umbels.
17. (in golf) The standard number of strokes set for each hole on a golf course, or for the entire course.
18. A boy or man.
19. Oceanic sharks.
20. The compass point midway between northeast and east.
21. Small terrestrial lizard of warm regions of the Old World.
23. God of fire.
26. Large burrowing rodent of South and Central America.
28. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
29. A cephalosporin that can be given parenterally (trade name Zinacef) or orally by tablets (trade name Ceftin).
33. (Greek mythology) The Muse of astronomy.
35. A kind of heavy jacket ('windcheater' is a British term).
36. A visual display of information.
40. Qualities that attract by seeming to promise some kind of reward.
44. Someone who engages in arbitrage (who purchases securities in one market for immediate resale in another in the hope of profiting from the price differential).
46. Conforming to an ultimate standard of perfection or excellence.
49. A period of time spent sleeping.
50. Any of several large deciduous trees with rounded spreading crowns and smooth gray bark and small sweet edible triangular nuts enclosed in burs.
52. English theoretical physicist who applied relativity theory to quantum mechanics and predicted the existence of antimatter and the positron (1902-1984).
54. A port city in southwestern Turkey on the Gulf of Antalya.
56. Long-bodied long-tailed tropical American wildcat.
57. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
58. A unit of weight used in some Moslem countries near the Mediterranean.
59. A gonadotropic hormone that is secreted by the anterior pituitary.

DOWN

60. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
62. An equal exchange.
65. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
69. A clay pipe with a short stem.
73. United States liquid unit equal to 4 quarts or 3.785 liters.
74. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
75. Edible muscle of mollusks having fan-shaped shells.
77. An ugly evil-looking old woman.
78. Characteristic of a mob.
79. A mountainous province of central Sudan.
80. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
1. The arch of bone beneath the eye that forms the prominence of the cheek.
2. (informal) Exceptionally good.
3. An informal term for a father.
4. The basic unit of money in Western Samoa.
5. A federal agency established to coordinate programs aimed at reducing pollution and protecting the environment.
6. A narrow elongated opening or fissure between two symmetrical parts.
7. Hybrid between mandarin orange and lemon having very acid fruit with orange peel.
8. Pertaining to one of the small sacs (as in a compound gland).
9. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
10. A plant hormone promoting elongation of stems and roots.
11. (meaning literally 'born') Used to indicate the maiden or family name of a married woman.
12. A drama set to music.
13. Valuable fiber plant of East Indies now widespread in cultivation.
14. A particular environment or walk of life.
22. The basic unit of length adopted under the System International d'Unites (approximately 1.094 yards).
24. A member of the Siouan people formerly living in the Missouri river valley in NE Nebraska.
25. A liquid used for printing or writing or drawing.
27. An associate degree in nursing.
30. Made tough by habitual exposure.
31. A person from whom you are descended.
32. A state in midwestern United States.
34. A federal agency that supervises carriers that transport goods and people between states.
37. (of complexion) Blemished by imperfections of the skin.
38. A long noosed rope used to catch animals.
39. Secured or held in place by tape.
41. Used in combination to denote the middle.
42. Precisely as stated.
43. Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.
45. Christian holiday.
47. Having relatively few calories.
48. Striped hyena of southeast Africa that feeds chiefly on insects.
51. At or within a short distance in space or time or having elements near each other.
53. King of Saudi Arabia since 1982 (born in 1922).
55. Cuban dancer and choreographer (born in 1921).
61. A lymph node that is inflamed and swollen because of plague or gonorrhoea or tuberculosis.
63. One thousand grams.
64. Small buffalo of the Celebes having small straight horns.
66. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
67. Any of numerous local fertility and nature deities worshipped by ancient Semitic peoples.
68. Primitive chlorophyll-containing mainly aquatic eukaryotic organisms lacking true stems and roots and leaves.
70. A light touch or stroke.
71. Having undesirable or negative qualities.
72. Administration of a nutritionally adequate solution through a catheter into the vena cava.
76. A hard brittle blue-white multivalent metallic element.

Yesterday's Solution

Christmas Tree



- ANGEL
- ARTIFICIAL
- BRANCHES
- CANDY CANES
- CELEBRATION
- DECEMBER
- DECORATE
- DECORATIONS
- FESTIVE
- FRESH CUT
- GARLAND
- GIFTS
- GREEN
- LARGE
- LIGHTS
- NEEDLES
- ORNAMENTS
- PINE
- PRESENTS
- PURCHASE
- REAL
- SCENT
- SETTING UP
- SKIRT
- SMALL
- SPRUCE
- STAND
- STAR
- TAKING DOWN
- TINSEL
- TOPPER
- TRADITION
- TREE FARM
- TREE LOT
- TRUNK
- WATER
- YEARLY

The hidden message is:

THE TRADITION OF HAVING A CHRISTMAS TREE ORIGINATED IN GERMANY

Daily SuDoku

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

medium

Yesterday's Solution

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

very hard

Yesterday's Solution

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

REYES DOUBLE HR LIFTS METS TO DRAMATIC WIN

NEW YORK: Jose Reyes hit a tying two-run homer in the ninth inning and Asdrubal Cabrera hit a three-run drive in an 11th-inning comeback to lift the New York Mets to a dramatic 9-8 win over the Philadelphia Phillies on Thursday night that kept them tied for the NL wild-card lead. New York trailed 6-4 when pinch-hitter Brandon Nimmo singled off Jeanmar Gomez leading off the ninth and Reyes homered to right with one out. Philadelphia went ahead 8-6 in the 11th when AJ Ellis hit an RBI single off Jeury Familia and Jim Henderson (2-2) walked Maikel Franco with the bases loaded. Pinch-hitter Michael Conforto walked against Edubray Ramos (1-3) with one out in the bottom half, Reyes singled and Cabrera, who has been playing on an injured knee, homered to right, setting off a wild celebration. The Mets had been 0-63 this year when trailing after eight innings. New York, which stopped a three-game skid, is tied with San Francisco for the NL wild-card lead.

INDIANS 5, ROYALS 2

Carlos Santana's three-run homer pushed Cleveland over Kansas City and nearer to its first AL Central championship since 2007. Santana's shot in the sixth inning off Dillon Gee (7-9) snapped a 2-2 tie as the Indians lowered their magic number to three and improved to 9-1 against the Royals this season. Kansas City's chances of making the postseason took another blow. The defending World Series champions began the night behind six teams in the wild-card chase. Reliever Dan Otero (5-1) pitched two scoreless innings, Bryan Shaw worked one and Cody Allen pitched a perfect ninth for his 29th save. Jason Kipnis homered for the Indians, who can wrap up a postseason berth this weekend against the Chicago White Sox.

TIGERS 9, TWINS 2, GAME 1 TIGERS 4, TWINS 2, GAME 2

Justin Verlander tied a season-high with 11 strikeouts and Detroit moved into the second AL wild-card spot by beating Minnesota to sweep a day-night doubleheader. Erick Aybar drove in two runs for Detroit, which moved a half-game ahead of Baltimore for the second wild card and trails Toronto by one game. The Tigers went 9-0 at Minnesota this year. Ervin Santana (7-11) gave up four runs - two earned - five hits and four walks in six innings. Verlander (15-8) allowed four hits in six innings, including home runs by Juan Centeno and Byron Buxton. He has won 12 of his last 13 starts against the Twins. Francisco Rodriguez got three outs for his 44th save in 48 chances. Victor Martinez had a pinch-hit, three-run homer during a six-run ninth inning in the opener. Justin Upton added his 26th home run off Alex Wimmers (1-3). In the first game, Anibal Sanchez allowed one run and two hits in five innings in a spot start, and Alex Wilson (4-0), Shane Green and Mark Lowe finished the five-hitter.

DODGERS 7, ROCKIES 4

Yasmani Grandal homered twice, including a grand slam in the seventh inning, to rally Los Angeles past Colorado. The victory reduced the Dodgers' magic number for clinching their record fourth consecutive NL West title to four. Their division lead remained at six games after San Francisco beat San Diego 2-1. Luis Avilan (3-0) got the win in relief, pitching a scoreless seventh with one strikeout. Kenley Jansen retired the side in the ninth for his 46th save in 52 chances. Jordan Lyles gave up a ground-rule, pinch-hit double to Andre Ethier to open the seventh. Boone Logan (2-4) took over and loaded the bases on two consecutive one-out walks. He then walked Adrian Gonzalez, forcing in a run and leaving the Dodgers trailing 4-3. Grandal followed with his second career grand slam, sending a 2-2 pitch into center field and giving the Dodgers their first lead of the game, 7-4.

GIANTS 2, PADRES 1

Angel Pagan's single broke a scoreless tie in the eighth and Jeff Samardzija struck out nine in seven innings for San Francisco, which beat San Diego to keep pace with the Mets for the NL wild-card lead. The Mets and Giants took a half-game lead over the idle St. Louis Cardinals in the wild card race. Samardzija (12-10) allowed four hits in seven scoreless innings, and walked none. Joe Panik, who had been in a 0-for-24 slump, doubled to right-center opening



NEW YORK: Asdrubal Cabrera #13 of the New York Mets celebrates after hitting a game winning walk-off three run home run in the bottom of the twelfth inning against as Edubray Ramos #61 of the Philadelphia Phillies walks off the field at Citi Field. — AFP

the eighth against Christian Friedrich (5-11). Sergio Romo pitched the ninth for his second save in two chances.

RED SOX 5, ORIOLES 3

David Price won his eighth straight decision, Hanley Ramirez homered and Boston completed a four-game sweep of sinking Baltimore. Boston has won eight straight to open a 5 1/2-game lead over idle Toronto in the AL East. With 13 victories in their last 16 games, the Red Sox have moved within one game of Texas for best record in the AL. Baltimore fell seven games out and dropped 11/2 games behind the Blue Jays for the top AL wild card. It was the first time since 2002 that the Orioles were swept at home by Boston in a four-game series. Price (17-8) gave up three runs and six hits in seven inning, walking two and striking out five. The Red Sox have won each of the left-hander's last nine starts since Aug 7. Koji Uehara worked the eighth, and Craig Kimbrel got three straight outs for his 29th save in 31 chances. Boston used a walk, a wild pitch and Andrew Benintendi's two-out RBI single off Vance Worley (2-2) to move in front in the fifth.

ANGELS 2, ASTROS 0

Albert Pujols hit a two-run homer in the first inning and Ricky Nolasco pitched seven solid innings, helping Los Angeles hinder Houston's wild-card hopes. The Angels ended an 11-game skid and pushed Houston 1 1/2 games behind the Tigers for the second AL wild card. Nolasco (7-14) gave up five hits - all singles - and struck out five. Andrew Bailey pitched the ninth for his fifth save. Mike Fiers (11-8) allowed two runs on four hits with a season-high nine strikeouts in 6 1/3 innings.

RAYS 2, YANKEES 0

Blake Snell and Tampa Bay's bullpen combined to strand 11 runners in a win that prevented a much-needed three-game sweep by New York. The Yankees are three games behind Detroit for the second AL wild-card spot and also trail Baltimore, Houston and Seattle. Snell (6-8) gave up five hits and three walks. New York had scoring threats in four of five innings against him, leaving the bases loaded in the third when Chase Headley flied out. Chase Whitley, in his third game since returning from Tommy John surgery, allowed two hits in 2 2/3 innings, and Alex Colome finished for his 35th save in 37 chances. Corey Dickerson hit a solo homer in the sixth off Luis Cessa (4-3).

PIRATES 3, BREWERS 1

Chris Carter hit his 37th home run, matching his career high and Scooter Gennett sliced an opposite-field, two-run homer to help Milwaukee avoid another sweep at Miller Park. Chase Anderson (9-11) allowed four hits in 5 2/3 innings, including a fifth-inning home run by Francisco Cervelli, his first since last Sept. 30. He improved to 3-1 in five starts this season against the Pirates, who had won their prior six games at Milwaukee. Tyler Thornburg pitched the ninth for his 12th save in 17 chances.

BRAVES 6, MARLINS 3

Matt Kemp hit two home runs to power Atlanta over Miami. Atlanta's Josh Collmenter (3-0) pitched seven innings and allowed two runs. Mauricio Cabrera pitched the ninth for his fifth save in six chances. Marlins starter Jose Urena (4-8) allowed five runs and four hits in three innings. — AP



FOXBOROUGH: New England Patriots quarterback Jacoby Brissett (7) dives into the end zone for a touchdown past Houston Texans linebacker Max Bullough (53) during the first half of an NFL football game. — AP

BRISSETT STARTS, SCRAMBLES, DELIVERS 27-0 PATS VICTORY

FOXBOROUGH: Maybe the Texans thought Jacoby Brissett would run out of bounds at the 5 in the first quarter of his first NFL start. After all, with Tom Brady suspended and Jimmy Garoppolo injured, the Patriots didn't have any other quarterbacks on the roster to call upon if the 23-year-old rookie got hurt. But when Brissett broke free around the right side from the Houston 27, he appeared to be cornered by safety Andre Hal inside the 10. Heading for the sideline, Brissett stutter-stepped and let the defender cut in front of him, then slipped through his grasp before diving for the end zone.

"I'm just running until I get stopped," Brissett said after leading the Patriots to a 27-0 victory over the Houston Texans on Thursday night. "It went just how we planned it was going to work out. I just had to make one guy miss." As the third-string, third-round draft pick celebrated with his teammates, the stadium public address blasted out The Doors singing, "Hello, I love you, won't you tell me your name." "I got a headache from all the head bopping," Brissett said.

The Patriots were lucky that's all that happened to the only quarterback active for the game. (Receiver Julian Edelman, who played QB at Kent State, was believed to be the emergency option if something happened to Brissett.) Asked if he was instructed to be extra careful - to slide or go out of

bounds to avoid a big hit - Brissett said, "It's 'Take care of yourself.' So ..."

No special instructions

Coach Bill Belichick said there were no special instructions for the rookie to be cautious. "Like on the touchdown run?" he said dismissively. Belichick said Brissett made an instantaneous decision, just as all players do on every play. "That's why we win games, because players make good decisions," said Belichick, who tied Curly Lambeau for fourth on the NFL's all-time regular-season win list with his 226th career victory. "That's what we ask them to do." Brissett went on to complete 11 of 19 passes for 103 yards, and ran for 48 yards on eight carries as the Patriots took advantage of three Houston turnovers. The 27-yard touchdown run was the longest for a Patriots quarterback since 1976. "He's a running quarterback. We expected it," Hal said. "I was trying to hold him out of there, and he cut back on me. He's a big guy, and he runs well."

New England improved to 3-0 without Brady, who has one game remaining on his "Deflategate" suspension. It is not clear whether Garoppolo, who was slammed to the turf on his right arm by Dolphins linebacker Kiko Alonso on Sunday, will be back to face Buffalo in the final game of Brady's ban on Oct. 2. The four-time Super Bowl champion is eligible to return for Week 5 against

Cincinnati.

LeGarrette Blount ran for 105 yards, including a 41-yard touchdown, and the Texans fumbled a pair of kickoff returns to set up one- and two-play touchdown drives. Brissett, who came on in relief of Garoppolo against Miami four days ago, became the first rookie quarterback to start for the Patriots since Drew Bledsoe in 1993 - and the first black player to start at QB in franchise history.

It was 15 years minus one day after Bledsoe was knocked out of the game on a hit by Jets linebacker Mo Lewis. Brady led the Patriots to the first of four Super Bowl titles that year, relinquishing the job only when he was injured in 2008 and again this year when NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell benched him for his role in a scheme to use improperly inflated footballs in the 2015 AFC title game.

Bledsoe, who had been the No. 1 overall pick in the 1993 NFL draft, had been the last Patriots rookie to start at quarterback before Brissett led the team out of the tunnel on Thursday night. Belichick declined to announce a starter before listing Garoppolo on the inactive list that was released 90 minutes before kickoff. "(Brissett) handled himself great last week, this week, all week, every day," Belichick said. "He's done nothing but work had ever since he's been here." — AP

VIKINGS WILL LEAN ON DEFENSE, BRADFORD WITHOUT PETERSON

EDEN PRAIRIE: In this day and age of high-flying passing attacks, the Minnesota Vikings have been a bit of a throwback in their run-first approach to offense. So now that the focal point of that offense is lost for the foreseeable future, the season is over, right? Not so fast.

Adrian Peterson had surgery on Thursday to repair a torn meniscus in his right knee, a procedure that is expected to keep him out for at least several months with a strong possibility that he misses the rest of the season. And the Vikings were ranked 28th in the league in offense with the best running back of his era on the field. "I know everybody is all concerned about we don't have this or we don't have that but it's a team," Coach Mike Zimmer said. "That's why we have 53 guys here, so that we can try to win as a team. That's all I've ever done since I've been here."

The Vikings started the season with Super Bowl aspirations, even after quarterback Teddy Bridgewater went down just over a week before the opener with a devastating knee injury. This week they lost Peterson and starting left tackle Matt Kalil (hip) to long-term injuries, but they remain confident that all is not lost heading into a Week 3 matchup at Carolina. So here is the formula the Vikings (2-0) will have to follow to survive life without Peterson carrying the offensive load:

Running back crew

Peterson was one of the few true workhorses left at running back in the league. He had 31 carries in the first two weeks, while the rest of the running backs on the roster combined for just 13. Now the offense will use a running back by committee, with shifty Jerick McKinnon getting the start, thumper Matt Asiata spelling him and the recently signed Ronnie Hillman there for insurance.

While none of those three have anything close to the resume of Peterson, they all bring different things to the table that can help them be effective as a group. McKinnon is an accomplished receiver out of the backfield, an area that Peterson never mastered. Asiata hits the holes quick and never dances in the backfield like Peterson would do on occasion, taking some of the burden off the beleaguered offensive line-men to sustain their blocks.

"They're both capable of being good pass protectors. They're both good receivers," offensive coordinator Norv Turner said. "We can mix them however we want, but Jerick with his explosiveness and his ability to come out of the backfield when appropriate we will try to take advantage of that."

Bradford's arm, Diggs' hands

Sam Bradford surpassed all expectations on Sunday night when he took hold of the offense after two weeks of practice and was so sharp in a victory over the Green Bay Packers. Bradford completed 22 of 31 passes for 286 yards and two touchdowns, taking advantage of a defense that had loaded up to stop Peterson. He immediately clicked with second-year receiver Stefon Diggs, a budding star who had nine catches for 182 yards and a touchdown in the game. With Peterson gone, it would figure that the offense would evolve more to feature the passing game with Bradford, Diggs and tight end Kyle Rudolph. — AP



MINNEAPOLIS: In this Sept. 18, 2016, file photo, Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson (28) is helped off the field after getting injured during the second half of an NFL football game against the Green Bay Packers. — AP



KFH HONORS PARALYMPICS CHAMP

KUWAIT: The PR team for Kuwait Finance House (KFH) recently received the Kuwaiti Paralympics champion, Ahmed Al-Mutairi on his arrival home from Brazil at Kuwait International Airport after winning a gold medal in 100

meter wheelchair race. KFH took part in honoring Al-Mutairi during a public and official reception in which sportsmen, ministers and members of the media took part.

WORLD CUP OF HOCKEY DELIVERS QUALITY PLAY

TORONTO: The NHL has gotten almost everything it hoped for so far at the World Cup of Hockey. In holding the first World Cup since 2004, the league and players wanted a festival of hockey that showcased the best players. Two losses and an early exit by the United States isn't what anyone wanted for the sake of interest, but the 23-and-under Team North America put on a show and captured the attention of fans, coaches and players around the tournament.

Team North America and the US are out, with Canada and Russia meeting in one semifinal Saturday night and Sweden and Team Europe in the other Sunday afternoon. The quality of play has already been Olympic-level high and should only get better with at least four and potentially five games left. "The winners here have been the fans," North America coach Todd McLellan said. "They've watched some really good hockey in September and that doesn't happen very often."

The NHL was panned initially for the North American and European all-star teams, but the youngsters' speed, skill and scoring won so many people over that merchandise bearing the "NA" logo was almost entirely sold out at Air Canada Centre. Europe won people over by winning, beating the US and the Czech Republic to advance. Two-time Olympic champion Canada has rolled, going 3-0 and outscoring opponents 14-3 along the way, and Sweden has leaned heavily on goaltender Henrik Lundqvist. North America's games against Russia and Sweden were two of the most exciting end-to-end games in recent international history.

Commissioner Gary Bettman is proud of how the NHL and NHLPA "revived the World Cup in world-class fashion." "It's been sensational. It's exactly what we expected," Bettman said. "We wanted this to feel like and be a major event. We predicted that the competition would be better than any international tournament to date, that it would have a big-event feel." The World Cup achieved big-event status in Toronto, with a mostly full arena and

buzz around the city. The same can't be said on US TV, as ESPN reported that approximately 770,000 people watched Canada beat Team USA on Tuesday night, the most watched game so far. Executive vice president of programming and scheduling Burke Magnus called the Americans' disappointing showing "a lost opportunity."

"That's the beauty of live sports," Magnus said by phone Thursday. "That's what makes sort of the unscripted nature of what we do so much fun. We obviously were counting on them to get out of pool play, but they weren't able to do it. But this is the best players in the world." Canada looks like it still has the best collection of players in the world, even without North America's Connor McDavid and Nathan MacKinnon, who orchestrated a magic show on ice. Even the most grizzled old-school fundamental hockey people had to appreciate the way McDavid, MacKinnon, 2016 top pick Auston Matthews and Co. played. McDavid said North America "definitely turned heads." Canada coach Mike Babcock called it "a great way to showcase the NHL of the future." "The North American kids have been a home run for the NHL," Babcock said. "This North American team is a pump in the arm for hockey. It's fantastic." Here are some other things we learned in round-robin play at the World Cup of Hockey:

US CAN'T SCORE

In two games before being eliminated, the US scored a total of one goal. Even with Patrick Kane, Joe Pavelski and Zach Parise on the roster, the Americans failed to generate scoring chances and general manager Dean Lombardi and coach John Tortorella had to answer for why they chose size and physicality at the expense of more skill. "From the staff right on through, (we) did not get the job done," Tortorella said. "You need to accept that and we need to take the medicine."

3 AND OH CANADA

The Sidney Crosby-led Canadians looked so



TORONTO: North America's Auston Matthews, center, scores against Sweden's goalie Henrik Lundqvist, right, Victor Hedman, left, and Daniel Sedin, second left, during the first period of a World Cup of Hockey game. — AP

good in their first game that American Hockey Hall of Famer Mike Modano tweeted to cancel the rest of the tournament and give them the trophy. Goalie Carey Price is on, and Canada looks unstoppable as usual. "We feel like we can improve," said Crosby, who has won 22 consecutive games with Canada. "I think it's just probably just consistency in every area, just making sure that we're sharp, that we make the plays we need to make."

HOW SWEDEN IT IS

Lundqvist stopped 81 of 85 shots in two games and is the top reason Sweden can win this. Ten years after leading the Swedes to

gold at the 2006 Olympics, "the King" has one last crack at another international title. "He's been our MVP," forward Carl Hagelin said. "I didn't expect anything else from that guy."

FROM RUSSIA WITH GOALS

Alex Ovechkin, Evgeni Malkin and the Russians used quick-strike offense to set up a rivalry showdown with Canada. A win on Canadian ice would go a long way toward moving past the home-ice failure in Sochi. "It's going to be like Russia when we play Olympic Games," Ovechkin said. "Everybody going to be crazy. Atmosphere's going to be unbelievable." — AP

FOUR ARSENE WENGER QUOTES

LONDON: AFP Sports picks out four Arsene Wenger quotes as the Frenchman celebrates 20 years as Arsenal manager this week:

"To remain unbeaten in a championship like the English championship now is really unbelievable. I want to win the Champions League but, really, this is more important. It is something amazing, something special. How can you do it?" A justifiably proud as punch Wenger after his 'Invincibles', including French stars Thierry Henry and Robert Pires, went through the 2003/04 Premier League season unbeaten, only the second side after Preston North End in

1888/89 to achieve that feat.

"What's really dreadful is the diet in Britain. The whole day you drink tea with milk and coffee with milk and cakes. If you had a fantasy world of what you shouldn't eat in sport, it's what you eat here." Not from the Marie Antoinette school of 'let them eat cake' Wenger used to the healthier diet of Japan, where he coached before taking over at Arsenal, lashes out at British dietary habits

"He's out of order, disconnected with reality and disrespectful. When you give success to stupid people, it makes them more stupid sometimes and not

more intelligent." Wenger has had fiery relationships with primarily Jose Mourinho and Alex Ferguson and eschewed the tradition of having a drink with his opposite number after the match. Here he reacts furiously to Mourinho having remarked in 2005 that Wenger was a 'voyeur' for constantly talking about Chelsea.

"A football team is like a beautiful woman. When you do not tell her, she forgets she is beautiful." The aesthetic side of Wenger is never far from the surface and here he reveals it again....some of his team talks must have been very interesting. — AFP



LONDON: This file photo taken on August 3, 1999 shows Arsenal's new French striker Thierry Henry (L) holding up his shirt with manager Arsene Wenger. — AFP

WENGER 20 YEAR ANNIVERSARY UNDERLINES FALLING STANDARDS

LONDON: Arsene Wenger memorably announced his arrival as a revolutionary force in England by banning his players from eating sweets, but the Arsenal manager's reign has turned increasingly sour as he marks the 20th anniversary of his appointment. Arguably the most significant agent of change in the Premier League era, the 66-year-old's achievements in revitalizing both Arsenal and English football will rightly be celebrated in this milestone week for the urbane Frenchman.

Yet when Wenger makes the drive from his home in the exclusive north London suburb of Totteridge to the Emirates Stadium for Saturday's clash with Chelsea it would be understandable if he pondered how he finds himself in danger of being viewed with the same disdain that greeted his hiring two decades ago. In an era when even the most unglamorous Premier League club can use the riches from lucrative television contracts to lure high-profile foreign coaches and players, it's hard to recall just how insular the Premier League was when Wenger left Japan's Nagoya Grampus Eight to join Arsenal in 1996. Few overseas stars plied their trade in

England at the time and tabloid headlines sneered "Arsene who?" while Wenger's professorial looks were easy fodder for doubting fans and some cynical members of Arsenal's old-school squad.

Given Wenger had no Premier League experience and first came to Arsenal vice-chairman David Dein's attention not for his managerial acumen but for his skill at charades during a dinner party, it was a significant gamble by both parties to let the Frenchman loose on English football. It proved a masterstroke and, after coming third in the Premier League in Wenger's first season, Arsenal never finished outside the top two for the next eight years.

Overhauling Arsenal's dietary and fitness regimes and introducing sports science and data analysis with remarkable results, Wenger was feted as the most innovative manager of his generation. "Nutrition was a big deal for Arsene. The dietician had a slogan, 'Chew to win', meaning he wanted us to chew our food for longer," former Arsenal defender Martin Keown said. "We started feeling superhuman during games, fitter and stronger than ever."

Golden period

If pasta, grilled chicken and broccoli were the ingredients of Wenger's recipe for success, he was just as ground-breaking in the cutthroat world of the transfer market. Establishing a scouting network far superior to any of his rivals, Wenger fused Arsenal's battle-hardened defense with an influx of astute cut-price signings. Patrick Vieira, Thierry Henry, Nicolas Anelka and Emmanuel Petit arrived as unknowns and left as superstars, while Wenger crucially managed to coax extraordinary feats from Dutch forward Dennis Bergkamp.

During that golden period, Arsenal won three Premier League titles and four FA Cups with a smooth-passing style that raised standards in a league previously more enamored of brute force. In 2003-04, Arsenal's "Invincibles" went undefeated in the league and two years later they almost conquered Europe before narrowly losing the Champions League final against Barcelona. But Wenger's success was a double-edged sword as his peers closed the gap by pilfering his philosophy at a time when Arsenal were burdened by the financial restrictions from their move to the Emirates. — AFP

WENGER'S HIGHS AND LOWS AT ARSENAL

LONDON: Arsene Wenger celebrates 20 years as Arsenal manager this week. AFP Sports looks back at the high points and low moments from the Frenchman's memorable reign:

HIGHS Double delight

Nothing better encapsulated the Wenger revolution than the sight of committed but cumbersome defender Tony Adams reborn as a swashbuckling goalscorer when the Gunners clinched the Premier League title in 1998 with a 4-0 win over Everton before making it a double celebration with an FA Cup final triumph against Newcastle.

Cup kings

A year after Michael Owen's late goals condemned Arsenal to a painful loss against Liverpool in the FA Cup final, Wenger returned to Cardiff's Millennium Stadium to regain the trophy in 2002 thanks to goals from Ray Parlour and Freddie Ljungberg. Four days later they beat Manchester United 2-0 at Old Trafford to complete Wenger's second double in four years.

Italian job

Although European silverware has eluded Wenger with Arsenal, his teams have still managed some fine flourishes in the Champions League, including a sublime 5-1 win over Inter Milan in 2003 as Thierry Henry and Robert Pires demolished the Italian giants at the San Siro.

Simply invincible

In the most memorable chapter of Wenger's Arsenal reign, the Gunners swept majestically through the entire 38-game Premier League campaign without a single defeat in 2003-04. Henry was at his brilliant best, with Pires and Ljungberg playing memorable supporting roles.

Drought ended

Arsenal were expected to secure Wenger's first silverware for nine years in emphatic fashion when they faced Hull in the 2014 FA Cup final. Yet underdogs Hull were two goals ahead after just eight minutes. Wenger's reputation was salvaged as Santi Cazorla got one back and Laurent Koscielny equalized late on before Aaron Ramsey won it in extra-time.

LOWS Giggs magic

A moment of magic from Ryan Giggs gave Manchester United a 2-1 victory in one of the all-time great FA Cup semi-finals. In the midst of a ferocious rivalry with United, it was Arsenal who looked set to claim a famous win at Villa Park in 1999 after Dennis Bergkamp cancelled out David Beckham's opener and United's Roy Keane saw red. But Bergkamp had a late penalty saved by Peter Schmeichel and Giggs produced an astonishing extra-time winner.

Deadly Owen

Wenger's bid for a second FA Cup triumph was ruined by Michael Owen's late heroics in the 2001 final in Cardiff. After being denied a penalty when Stephane Henchoz handled on the line from Thierry Henry, Freddie Ljungberg gave Arsenal the lead in the second half. But Owen equalised with eight minutes remaining, then produced a superb solo strike three minutes from the end. — AFP

QATAR FIRE COACH WITH 2018 HOPES IN BALANCE

DOHA: Ambitious World Cup 2022 hosts Qatar have sacked coach Jose Daniel Carreno just a fortnight ahead of a crucial 2018 qualifier in South Korea and after successive defeats. The Uruguayan was dismissed following recent back-to-back defeats against Iran and Uzbekistan which left Qatar's hopes of making the World Cup in Russia in two years' time in serious trouble.

Carreno is expected to be replaced by fellow Uruguayan Jorge Fossati, currently coach of Qatar Stars League (QSL) champions Al-Rayyan. A Qatar Football Association spokesman told AFP yesterday that there would be an announcement of a new coach "today or tomorrow". "The new coach will be

someone from Doha, a coach from Doha," said the spokesman. Adding to the expectation that Fossati will be appointed, the spokesman said no announcement would likely be made until after Al-Rayyan's game on Friday evening. Asked if Carreno had lost his job because of World Cup qualifying results, the spokesman replied: "For sure."

Qatar, which has been savaged by critics after being awarded the 2022 World Cup for having little footballing pedigree, is desperate to reach its first finals in 2018. If it fails to do so, Qatar will become the first team to host a World Cup finals without previously qualifying since Italy way back in 1934. Fossati, 63, previously coached the nation-

al team between 2007 and 2008. He has had a long and varied career as a player and manager and coached the Uruguayan national team for two years from 2004.

The other leading candidate is French-born Algerian Djamel Belmadi. The former Southampton player coached the national team in 2014-15, when Qatar won the Gulf championship. He currently coaches QSL side Lekhwiya. Completing the managerial merry-go-round, Carreno is expected to become the new manager of Al Hilal in Saudi Arabia, after they fired their Uruguayan coach Gustavo Matosas on Thursday. Carreno's fate was sealed following a meeting on Thursday. — AFP

MOURINHO: CRITICISM CUT ABOVE 'EINSTEINS' ATTACK

MANCHESTER: Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho insisted yesterday he was unhurt by attacks on his players from football "Einsteins", adding it was a very different matter when he publicly criticized his team. Mourinho's approach was called into question by various sections of the media during a run of three successive defeats that ended with United's EFL Cup victory over third-tier side Northampton Town in midweek.

The Portuguese boss labeled the critics "Einsteins" for their know-it-all approach but said in a news conference on Friday they had not annoyed him. "I am (not) upset with anything," Mourinho said. "I am such a lucky guy that I cannot be upset with anything. I am upset with nothing. "The only thing that upsets me a little bit is the kind of criticism to my players because my players are my players. "I should protect them, I would love to protect them, and from you (in the media) I can't. It is something that is completely out of my control."

The former Chelsea manager added: "It's like when you want to protect people and you can't. "I think it's a feeling of frustration, but with me it's fine and with the Einsteins it's fine. "The Einsteins need money to live, they can't coach, they can't sit on the bench, they can't win matches. "They can speak, they can write, they can criticize the work of other people, but I am a good man. I am a good man of goodwill. I do lots of charity, I help so many people, so why not also feed the Einsteins? That's fine."

'Learning process'

Mourinho has not been averse to his own criticism of his players so far this season, which started with three successive Premier League wins before losses to Manchester City and Watford, either side of a Europa League defeat in Feyenoord. United defender Luke Shaw was said to be unhappy at being singled out for criticism for a mistake he made in the loss at Watford but Mourinho defended his stance.

"It's a learning process," Mourinho explained. "You make a mistake, especially the kind of individual mistake, you have to learn with what that means for the team. "The critique is part of the evolution, the critique is part of the process, the critique helps people to learn how to cope with critics. It's their life. From you, they cannot expect other thing than be ready to smash them when they have periods of not so much success." United captain Wayne Rooney's unconvincing form has been another major talking point during the early months of Mourinho's Old Trafford reign, with the manager saying it was just a reflection of the side's performances as a whole.

"We are a team. We are not Wayne Rooney, we are a team," he said. "We all won four matches. We all lost three matches in a week. We like to say very good start to the season, probably better than we could expect, better than you were prepared for." United face defending champions Leicester City at Old Trafford on Saturday, already trailing Premier League leaders Manchester City by six points. Mourinho accepted he had taken a chance in saying United would be challenging for the Premier League title in his first season in charge. A three-time Premier League winner at Chelsea, he added: "I always said since day one that my title ambitions were also a motivational factor. — AFP



MADRID: This file photo taken on February 2, 2016 shows Barcelona's Brazilian forward Neymar arriving to Spain's National Court. — AFP

SPANISH COURT REOPENS NEYMAR'S FRAUD CASE

MADRID: A fraud case against Brazilian superstar Neymar and his father in relation to the player's 2013 transfer to Barcelona was reopened yesterday following a successful appeal by Spanish prosecutors, a court filing showed. In July a judge ruled that irregularities in the high-profile transfer were detected, but said it was an issue for a civil court, not a criminal court to settle. However, prosecutors successfully argued the player and his father were aware of potentially fraudulent dealings between Barcelona and his former club Santos to the detriment of DIS, a Brazilian investment company who owned 40 percent of the player's sporting rights at the time of the transfer.

Spain's National Court "fully overturned" Judge Jose de la Mata's decision two months ago, allowing the case to proceed. Neymar, 24, his father (also Neymar), Barcelona president Josep Maria Bartomeu and his predecessor Sandro Rosell were all called to testify in the case in February. Barcelona in June

agreed to pay a 5.5-million-euro (\$6.2 million) fine in a deal with prosecutors that see the club avoid trial on tax-evasion charges over the transfer.

Last week La Liga announced it will investigate Barca over the deal. Rosell resigned amidst the scandal over how much Neymar cost the club. The Spanish champions originally published the fee in the transfer as 57.1 million euros, with 40 million euros of that given to the player's family. But Spanish authorities believe the true transfer figure was at least 83 million euros because of a series of extra agreements tied to the transfer between the two clubs.

Pre-contract agreement

Santos-the Brazilian club of a young Pele and where Neymar started his career-received just 17.1 million, 6.8 million euros of which went to DIS. DIS has claimed it was cheated of its real share firstly because part of the transfer fee was concealed by Barcelona and Santos. Moreover, DIS also believes a pre-con-

tract agreement between Neymar and Barca impeded other clubs from making offers for the player, affecting the value of the transfer fee. Neymar is far from the only Barca star to find himself in problems with the Spanish authorities.

Five-time World Player of the Year Lionel Messi and his father were given 21-month jail sentences in July for tax fraud relating to the player's image rights. Messi is appealing the verdict, but the prison sentences are likely to be suspended as is common in Spain for first offences for non-violent crimes carrying a sentence of less than two years. "If there is one player used to dealing with different situations and one team used to dealing with different situations, it is Barcelona," said Barca boss Luis Enrique yesterday. "All the players and their coach are used to dealing with things that have nothing to do with football." Barca's Argentine defender Javier Mascherano also agreed a one-year suspended sentence with authorities for tax fraud earlier this year. — AFP

BAYERN LINES UP FRESH NEW PREY

BERLIN: Carlo Ancelotti's all-conquering German league leaders Bayern Munich face a Hamburg side in turmoil today with coach Bruno Labbadia under the threat of the axe after three straight defeats. Hamburg's 1-0 defeat at Freiburg on Tuesday followed their humiliating 4-0 drubbing at home to RB Leipzig last Saturday. Labbadia has been in charge since April 2015 but another uninspiring performance from his team at the hands of Ancelotti's relentless Bayern could be his last.

It does not help that Hamburg have suffered 5-0, 8-0 and 9-2 thrashings at the hands of the Munich giants in the last three years and another drubbing could see Labbadia shown the door just five games into the new league season. Hamburg last beat Bayern in 2009 and

are winless against the Bavarian giants in their last 13 games. "I take the main responsibility and I'm the first to do so if we can't decide games for ourselves," said Labbadia after their latest reversal.

Hamburg's defense will need to dramatically improve against Bayern's strike force boasting Robert Lewandowski, Thomas Mueller and Franck Ribery, who netted in Wednesday's 3-0 win at home to Hertha Berlin. Bayern are the only team with a perfect record in Germany's top flight. They want an impressive display before next Wednesday's Champions League group stage clash at Atletico Madrid, who knocked them out in the semi-finals last year. With seven wins from his first seven games in all competitions, Ancelotti is enjoying the best start

to a season in Bayern's highly successful history.

Schalke 04 are at Hoffenheim today with new coach Markus Weinzierl already under intense pressure after four straight defeats, including Wednesday's 3-1 shock loss at home to Cologne, which had been dubbed a must-win game for the Royal Blues. Gladbach host Barcelona at Borussia Park next Wednesday, but their main priority today is seeing off Ingolstadt at home after their 1-1 draw at newly promoted RB Leipzig on Wednesday. Bottom side Werder Bremen, who sacked Viktor Skripnik on Monday, are at home to Wolfsburg on Saturday night with caretaker coach Alexander Nouri still looking for their first points after Wednesday's 2-1 defeat at Mainz. — AFP



LIMA: The front page story in Peru's main newspapers, seen here in Lima on September 22, 2016, was about Argentine football star Lionel Messi's recent injury and his possible absence from the October 6 Russia 2018 World Cup qualifying football match Peru vs Argentina. — AFP

BARCELONA BEGINS ROAD TRIP WITHOUT STAR MESSI

MADRID: A Barcelona side missing injured Lionel Messi face Sporting Gijon in the first of three away games in a week, as they battle to keep pace with La Liga leaders Real Madrid today. Messi suffered the recurrence of a groin strain in Wednesday's 1-1 draw with Atletico Madrid that will keep the five-time World Player of the Year sidelined for the next three weeks. His absence could have a bigger impact on Argentina than Barca because the two-time world champions will be without their captain for World Cup qualifiers against Paraguay and Peru.

However, Spanish champions Barca have three tricky obstacles to overcome in the next week as they head also to Borussia Moenchengladbach in the Champions League on Wednesday before another away trip to Celta Vigo next Sunday. "We all wish that he was with us. The team is stronger with him than without him, but these unexpected situations happen," Barca captain

Andres Iniesta said on Thursday. "Squads win titles. Individuals help, but it is the squad as a whole that wins things."

Without Messi, Barca's other two star forwards Luis Suarez and Neymar will be expected to take on extra responsibility—just as they did in scoring 16 goals in the six league games Messi missed during a two-month injury layoff last season. Sergio Busquets also came off early against Atletico due to the after-effects of a fever, but should be fit to start in Asturias.

Arda Turan is the favourite to replace Messi after deputising ably on the other side of the Barca frontline when Neymar was absent at the start of the season because of his participation in the Rio Olympics. One familiar face to Barca may not be available for Sporting due to a comical injury — on-loan Brazilian full-back Douglas injured his hip when sleeping on the team bus back from a 2-1 defeat to Celta Vigo on Wednesday.

Real missing duo

Real Madrid's bid to make La Liga history with a 17th straight win fell short in midweek as they were held to a 1-1 draw by Villarreal. Zinedine Zidane's men still hold a three-point lead over Barca, but face an awkward trip to the Canary Islands to face Las Palmas before a huge Champions League clash against Borussia Dortmund on Tuesday. Madrid are also depleted by injury: Brazilian duo Marcelo and Casemiro have been ruled out for the next few weeks.

The European champions are short of a natural replacement in either position with Danilo set to deputise at left-back, whilst Toni Kroos is likely to drop into the deepest-lying midfield role to make way for Luka Modric to return. Las Palmas's excellent start to the season was undone on Wednesday by a 4-1 thrashing at Real Sociedad. Former AC Milan midfielder Kevin-Prince Boateng will miss Madrid's visit after being sent-off in the first-half in San Sebastian. — AFP

ALLEGRI TELLS JUVE 'TAKE COMMAND'

MILAN: Juventus must "take command" of their opponents, thundered coach Massimiliano Allegri, as they look to warm up for a vital Champions League clash with a win at Palermo today. Juve pounced on Napoli's shock scoreless draw at Genoa on Wednesday to go top of Serie A with a one-point lead on the southerners thanks to a 4-0 rout of Cagliari. But defeat to Inter Milan at the San Siro last week left a bitter taste and the Old Lady is still looking for early season consistency.

Days after goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon said he "didn't recognise" his team during their San Siro reverse, Allegri followed suit. "Juventus has to start taking command of games," Allegri said after midweek goals by Daniele Rugani, Gonzalo Higuain, Dani Alves and an own goal in Turin. After a scoreless draw with Sevilla at home, Juve travel to Dinamo Zagreb under pressure to win if they are to maintain their status as one of the Champions League favourites. Palermo fans are still celebrating a rare away win after Ilija Nestorovski's 89th minute winner secured the points at Atalanta on Wednesday. But the Sicilian club's new coach, Roberto De Zerbi, seems to be under no illusions about today's challenge. "We can go out and challenge a lot of teams but we'll see if we've acquired the mentality to fight with big teams," he said.

Allegri was unequivocal: "Our next game's at Palermo and we need the three points if we are to prepare well for Zagreb." Dropped Juve points in Sicily would not go amiss with Napoli. But the Partenopei, who warm up for their Champions League clash at home to Benfica on Tuesday by welcoming Chievo to the San Paolo, have their own amends to make.

Marek Hamsik hit the crossbar in the opening half and although Napoli had two penalty claims waved away, only the lightning-quick reflexes of 'keeper Pepe Reina in the last five minutes prevented defeat to Genoa in midweek. "For 85 minutes we dominated so I can't judge my players on the final five minutes," said Napoli coach Maurizio Sarri.

Inter hit form

Chievo, surprisingly, sit only two points off the lead after winning three of their five games so far including a 2-1 defeat of Sassuolo in midweek. "They're a tough side," said Sassuolo's French striker Gregoire Defrel, who hit the visitors' only goal of the game. But ahead of their trip to Napoli, Chievo coach Rolando Maran is not getting carried away: "Looking at our position in the table is nice, but we know what kind of championship battle we face." Although Napoli were Juve's key challengers last season, the pundits in Italy have been tickled by Inter Milan's title credentials. Frank De Boer's men followed their Juve victory by cruising to a 2-0 win at Empoli midweek thanks to a brace from Mauro Icardi, who is now top of the scoring charts with six goals in five games. But for all of Icardi's goals, Inter fans can't wait to feast their eyes on new Brazilian striker Gabriel Barbosa, who could make his debut tomorrow when Inter host Bologna looking to make it four wins in a row.

Known as "Gabriel", or by his "GabiGol" nickname, the striker's move to Italy angered Barcelona because the La Liga giants believed they had signed a preferential deal with his former club Santos. Gabriel said on Thursday: "I had offers from England, Spain and an astronomical offer from China. But Inter was always my first choice." England 'keeper Joe Hart faces his first big test in Serie A as Roma, 4-0 winners over Crotona midweek when Edin Dzeko hit a brace, travel to Torino. — AFP

SPURS CAN CHALLENGE ON MULTIPLE FRONTS: WALKER

MIDDLESBROUGH: Kyle Walker has underlined the growing confidence at White Hart Lane by insisting Tottenham are targeting a clean sweep of honors this season. Mauricio Pochettino's side travel to Middlesbrough today sitting third in the Premier League table and in buoyant mood after thrashing Gillingham 5-0 in the League Cup in midweek.

Tottenham have not enjoyed a completely unblemished start to the campaign, with the home defeat to Monaco in their opening Champions League group game coming as a major disappointment. But flying England right-back Walker says there is a growing belief there are no limits to what the squad can achieve this season, at home and in Europe.

"We're in it to win it, as they say," Walker told the BBC's Football Focus program. "We're in all the competitions and we want to win all the competitions. 'We don't go out there and say, 'We're not going to win this one today because we're thinking about the other game'. 'With the depth of squad we have we can go out and attack every game and play the way that we play, knowing that if we're not fit for one game the cover is there. 'Hopefully we can go far in each competition. I'd love to show my two little boys that daddy's won a medal with Tottenham. Hopefully it can be this season."

Pochettino strengthened his squad during the close season, adding Vincent Janssen, Victor Wanyama and Moussa Sissoko, while Danny Rose

became the latest established Tottenham player to sign a new, extended deal this week. The Argentine coach hopes he now has the squad depth to sustain a title challenge after last season's bid to catch Leicester faded badly during the final weeks of the season. With striker Harry Kane sidelined with an ankle ligament injury, Pochettino's squad is already being tested and Janssen has to shoulder responsibility for maintaining Tottenham's goal threat. The Dutch forward scored his first goal for the club against Gillingham and said: "I am ready to play. I feel bad for Harry but if he is fit I want to play with him. 'I have enough confidence and, if I hadn't scored against Gillingham, for me I was sure I would score in the next game." — AFP

Live Matches on TV (Local Timing)

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Man United v Leicester City	14:30
beIN SPORTS 2 HD	
Sunderland v Crystal Palace	17:00
beIN SPORTS 8 HD	
Middlesbrough v Tottenham	17:00
beIN SPORTS 9 HD	
Bournemouth v Everton FC	17:00
beIN SPORTS	
Liverpool v Hull City	17:00
beIN SPORTS 2 HD	
Swansea City v Man City	17:00
beIN SPORTS 1 HD	
Stoke City v West Bromwich	17:00
beIN SPORTS 7 HD	
Arsenal v Chelsea FC	19:30
beIN SPORTS 2 HD	

SPANISH LEAGUE

SD Eibar v Real Sociedad	14:00
beIN SPORTS 3 HD	
Sporting Gijon v FC Barcelona	17:15
beIN SPORTS 3 HD	
Athletic de Bilbao v Sevilla	19:30
beIN SPORTS 3 HD	
Las Palmas v Real Madrid CF	21:45
beIN SPORTS 3 HD	

ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE

Citta di Palermo v Juventus	19:00
beIN SPORTS 4 HD	
SSC Napoli v AC Chievo Verona	21:45
beIN SPORTS 4	

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

Monchengladbach v Ingolstadt 04	16:30
beIN SPORTS 5 HD	
Mainz 05 v Bayer 04 Leverkusen	16:30
beIN SPORTS 12 HD EN	
Hamburger SV v Bayern Munich	16:30
beIN SPORTS 5 HD	
FC Augsburg v SV Darmstadt 98	16:30
beIN SPORTS	
Eintracht v Hertha Berlin	16:30
beIN SPORTS	
SV Werder Bremen v Wolfsburg	19:30
beIN SPORTS 5 HD	

FRENCH LEAGUE

Lorient v Olympique Lyonnais	18:00
beIN SPORTS 6 HD	
AS Monaco FC v Angers	21:00
beIN SPORTS 6 HD	
Montpellier HSC v FC Metz	21:00
beIN SPORTS	
Bastia v Guingamp	21:00
beIN SPORTS 7 HD	
Girondins de Bordeaux v Caen	21:00
beIN SPORTS 8 HD	
Dijon v Stade Rennes	21:00
beIN SPORTS	



LONDON: Liverpool's German manager Jurgen Klopp punches the air at the end of the English Premier League football match between Chelsea and Liverpool at Stamford Bridge. — AFP

KLOPP URGES PATIENCE AS LIVERPOOL THRIVES

LIVERPOOL: Liverpool are building momentum after three successive wins in league and cup but manager Jurgen Klopp is pleading for patience when his team face Hull City at Anfield today. Klopp's men have swatted aside high-quality opponents in Arsenal, champions Leicester City and Chelsea this season with a brand of exciting, fast football. However, their only defeat so far this term came against a Burnley side who won 2-0 with only 19 percent of the possession.

Hull have proved resolute when under pressure this season, but Klopp believes it would be unhelpful for the home crowd to get too edgy too soon if an early goal fails to materialize against a side Liverpool are expected to beat. "So many people think we have a problem against bus parking," Klopp said. "I cannot remember a lot of space in the games we played against Chelsea or Tottenham (a 1-1 draw). 'We have to find solutions,' the German added. 'I think we all can improve the team, coaches, manager and the crowd. 'If you create chances

against Chelsea, it's positive. If you miss, it's still positive because you created a chance against Chelsea. If you miss a chance against Burnley, it's seen as a negative. 'That's what we have to learn. No football game is easy. It is not easier against Hull, why should it be easier?'"

No 1 decision

Liverpool have been thrilling going forward but not always so convincing at the other end and Klopp has a dilemma over his number one. Loris Karius was widely expected to become Liverpool's first-choice goalkeeper when he signed from Mainz in May, but his progress was halted when he suffered a broken finger during the pre-season tour of the United States.

That gave Simon Mignolet the chance to start the season in goal-but now Karius is fit again, making his debut on Tuesday as Liverpool won 3-0 at Derby in the third round of the EFL Cup. "If I make a decision for the next game, it's not that this is how it

is for the next five years," said Klopp, giving nothing away. "It's a decision at a high level because I'm really happy with both of them. You'll have to wait and see."

Adam Lallana and Georginio Wijnaldum will return to the squad after being rested for the Derby game to allow them to recover from knocks. Daniel Sturridge has also returned to training after a recent minor injury problem. These are uncertain times for Hull, who remain in continued takeover talks, while after almost a week's deliberation; Mike Phelan is still to accept an offer to become manager on a full-time basis after a successful two-month spell in caretaker charge since the departure of Steve Bruce.

Stephen Clemence wants to see the managerial situation resolved as quickly as possible, and Hull's reserve team coach said: "As far as I'm aware, there's nothing new at present, but I think we're all fed up talking about it. 'The staff wants him as the manager, the players do and the fans do. We just need to get it sorted.'" — AFP

Sports



Wenger 20 year anniversary underlines falling standards 44



KANPUR: New Zealand's captain Kane Williamson bats on the second day of their cricket test match against India at Green Park Stadium. — AP

WILLIAMSON LEADS NZ ON RAIN-HIT DAY

KANPUR: Skipper Kane Williamson led from the front yesterday as New Zealand replied strongly with 152 for one against India on a rain-hit second day of the first Test in Kanpur. Williamson, who came to the crease after the early wicket of Martin Guptill, put on a 117-run second wicket partnership with Tom Latham to make major inroads into India's first innings total of 318.

At stumps, New Zealand had reduced the deficit to 166 runs, with Williamson unbeaten on 65 and Latham also well set on 56 when rain stopped play after tea to wash out the final session of play. The batting duo tackled the Indian spinners Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja with aplomb as they used their feet and the sweep shot to great effect at Kanpur's Green Park Stadium.

"We are confronted by two very good spinners who know the conditions well and are

going to challenge you at different times," New Zealand's batting coach Craig McMillan told reporters. "Both guys soaked that (constant appealing) up really nicely throughout that partnership and whenever they got a scoring opportunity they made the most of it. "That is one of the keys, you don't allow Ashwin or Jadeja to bowl 12 or 15 balls at one person. You have to find a way a way to get down the other end and both those guys did that really nicely today."

Williamson survived a scare when an Ashwin ball hit the back of his helmet. The back flaps which provide extra support to the skull fell onto his stumps, but didn't dislodge the bails. Latham also rode his luck after Jadeja got the left-handed batsman caught at short leg, but replays showed the ball hitting the helmet grille of fielder Lokesh Rahul.

The decision was referred to the third umpire who gave Latham not out as according to the rules, external protective gear cannot come into play while taking a catch. The duo got to their respective fifties soon after, although off-spinner Ashwin and left-arm spinner Jadeja continued to trouble the batsmen. "They stuck to their game plans and when the Indian bowlers missed we jumped all over it," said McMillan. "I thought the way the rotated the strike with that left and right-hand combination throughout the partnership was crucial."

Guptill falls

Umesh Yadav was India's sole wicket-taker after he trapped Guptill lbw for 21 in the first session of play. Guptill started with positive intent as he struck three boundaries in his 31-ball stay before being undone by Yadav's pacy,

in-swinging delivery. Despite New Zealand's strong position, India's batting coach Sanjay Bangar said the hosts could claw their way back into the game if they can break the partnership early on when play resumes today. "It's a matter of a wicket. We have to be patient. We will have to wait for that one breakthrough," said Bangar. "There were a few close calls in second session. It's a matter of putting pressure back on them."

Earlier overnight batsman Jadeja played a useful 42-run cameo for the hosts, who started the day on 291 for nine. Jadeja struck seven fours and a six during his unbeaten knock as he entertained the crowd at Kanpur's Green Park. Medium-pacer Neil Wagner got Yadav caught behind for nine to end up with two wickets in the innings. Mitchell Santner and Trent Boult claimed three apiece. — AFP