

Summertime fun
in Kuwait: Things
to do outdoors



Dortmund's
Dembele
stuns Bayern

46



NOTICE TO OUR READERS

On the occasion of the Israa and Miraj holiday, Kuwait Times' offices are closed today. Hence, there will be no issue published tomorrow. Our next issue will hit the newsstands on Sunday, April 30, 2017.

FREE

www.kuwaittimes.net

Kuwait Times Friday Times



Min 23°
Max 38°

NO: 17212- Friday, April 28, 2017



Kuwait's popular 'Gazelle Club' Now & Then

See Pages 4 -6

Looking Beyond the Horizon

Kuwait's development goals: Part II

By Sana Kalim

Kuwait has been glorified as being the perfect country that it truly is; however, what determines a true perfect country? Is it a place where all companies prosper? A place where all resources are managed and meticulously balanced? A place where no child wakes up in terror of the hours ahead? The Sustainable Development Goals aim to answer all of these thoughts, whether comfortable or not. This is done by first analyzing the deeply-rooted problems within our prosperous country, and going on to set our agendas straight - so we all can set ourselves to work hard towards a perfect ideology of Kuwait.

This is part two of last week's article titled "Kuwait's development goals: Looking beneath the Surface".

Here are the rest of the goals:

8- Decent work and economic growth - We live in a world where companies prosper

Kuwait is a wealthy economy with crude oil reserves of around 10 percent of the world's supply. Moreover, the government plans to increase oil production to 4 million barrels per day by 2020. Kuwait is dependent on petroleum for over half of its GDP, dominating the Kuwaiti market by representing 94 percent of its export revenues and 90 percent of the government's income.

During 2015, Kuwait found a large deficit within its economy. Kuwaiti authorities have tried to reduce the deficit by decreasing spending on subsidies for the local population, with not that much change. Impressively, the government has cushioned itself against the impact of lower oil prices by saving annually at least 10 percent of public revenue in the "Fund for Future Generations" despite Kuwait's dependence on oil.

Kuwait has failed to diversify its economy or strengthen the private sector (which showed a notable rise in 2013). This is due to a poor business climate, a large public sector that crowds out private employment of Kuwaiti nationals, and a bitter relationship between the National Assembly and the executive branch has prevented most economic reforms. The Kuwaiti government has made little progress on its long-term economic development plan which was first passed in 2010. While the government planned to spend up to \$104 billion over four years to diversify the economy, attract more investment and boost private sector participation in the economy, many of the projects did not materialize because of an uncertain political situation. These statistics have been taken from Theodora.com.

The process of owning a business in Kuwait is quite long and tedious, and an article named "How to start a business in Kuwait" explains just that. Unemployment within the country has been slowly decreasing, to around 2.2 percent in 2015 after a high of 3.6 percent in 2011. Overall, Kuwait requires a more active environment, especially for its youth to grow and start new businesses to help diversify the economy of Kuwait.

9-Industry, innovation and infrastructure - Where people create, not just make, money, to make people's lives better.

As a progressive country, Kuwait ranks last in terms of innovation within the GCC countries as of 2015 according to the Global Innovation Index. Sure, Kuwait's electricity output per capita is ranked first within the GCC countries. Student-teacher ratio for secondary education is ranked 8th and the ease of paying taxes has been ranked 11th in Kuwait. So why are we last in innovation? Well, on business sophistication, we have been ranked in the 132nd place, on knowledge absorption, we have been ranked 130th and the ease of starting a business within Kuwait is low at 120th place.

There have been some attempts to establish innovation such as the two-day forum Zain launched last year on the topic of digital innovation, which was a success, with over 300 projects collected. KISR (Kuwait Institute for Scientific

Research) is a body within Kuwait striving to apply innovation in our day-to-day lives, along with KFAS (Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences), but with limited success. Again, these programs are quite specific to nationality and acceptance from expats is quite difficult. For example, the Sabah Al-Ahmad School of Giftedness and Creativity - is a beautiful piece of architecture, which accepts only Kuwaitis!

Moreover, finding jellybean electronics is quite difficult here in Kuwait, like Arduino, etc - it's not sold openly and is a lot more expensive. Innovation to help others can only occur once innovation can actually happen. Kuwait does have organizations such as LOYAC that primarily works on helping the youth and also the environment - this body is a key stepping stone to further innovation in Kuwait.

10- Reduced Inequalities - We live in a world where prejudices and extreme inequality are defeated, inside and between countries.

Here is where the topic of expats comes along. Kuwait has a population comprising of 70 percent expats, as of 2017. Without the expat population, Kuwait would not be able to run itself - from doctors to maids to teachers - we can all agree that expats play a key role in Kuwait. Then why is it so difficult for them to get through day-to-day life? Sure, we are not Kuwaiti, but Kuwait strives to be a progressive country and yet mistreats its people.

Kuwait has been rated the worst country for expats by Expat Insider as of 2016. Kuwait in the perspective of expats, ranks 4th lowest in terms of a stable relationship within the country, ranks 7th lowest for climate, 9th lowest for the quality of the environment, 8th lowest for housing affordability, 9th lowest for housing availability, 55th place for the high cost of living, last for work-life balance, last for friendliness, second-last for feeling welcome, last for ease of settling in, last for personal happiness - the list goes on and on according to Expat Insider.

This is a frightening list! Aren't we a country of religion? Where has our religion gone? Our morals? Aren't we all brothers and sisters? Is this the way you treat your siblings? EQUATE is a great organization that aims to help reduce social equality in Kuwait, so there is some growth to develop in this area.

11- Sustainable cities and communities - Where people live in cities and communities which are safe and progressive to everyone who lives there.

The following information is based on reports released in 2016. According to OSAC, the crime rate within Kuwait is below the US average - however it is probable that many crimes go unreported, especially due to the fear by expats residing in Kuwait. The report suggests that most crime occurs between Kuwaitis and/or between Kuwaitis and domestic workers. Minor thefts have been reported regarding property within populated areas such as shopping centers. Other crimes include residency fraud, white-collar crimes, immigration and residency theft, bank card theft, white-collar fraud, embezzlement (salary fraud), and possession and trafficking of narcotics.

Within expats, there have been numerous reports of theft, which were nearly always financial-based. There is a perception as well that expatriate areas aren't fully investigated regarding the levels of rape within the area, with special areas of concern being Jahra and Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh. Our new battlefield - the cyber platform - has been easily infiltrated by people with limited computer skills - allowing people to easily spy on celebrities and hack into private companies.

On the topic of road safety in Kuwait, OSAC has commented that "the most dangerous daily threat residents face is driving. Drivers must remain on the defensive. Locals often drive aggressively, pass on shoulders and emergency lanes, and operate without headlights at night."

Traffic fatalities occur primarily due to speed. Kuwait has a wonderful traffic system. Sadly, people drive over the speed limit excessively and

weave through traffic without any concern for surrounding drivers - 303 traffic accidents occurred as of 2015, with the media reporting 423 deaths. This gives us a total of 2,437 deaths over five years as noted by KUNA - and many of the reported accidents were due to negligent driving due to excessive use of smartphones.

12- Responsible consumption and production - Where we replace what we have taken, put back what we have taken from Earth.

Recycling is surprisingly difficult in Kuwait - there are companies here to assist with recycling; however keeping these companies sustained has been difficult. We need to regulate waste in Kuwait! There are recycling companies such as Omniya, Challenge the Era Co, Epic and Environment Friends. There also have been events from companies, like KNPC's annual celebration regarding health, safety and the environment to recognize Kuwait's growing need for a sustainable cycle.

The EPA was an agency here that tried to regulate this, but it has seemed to have died during the beginning of last year, with no more updates. Yes, there have been a lot more regulations, especially along beaches, but Kuwait is practically at its final step to make itself more sustainable and environmentally efficient - by making environment a priority. Bring all these companies into the mainstream.

13- Climate action - We live in a world that fights climate change.

Still, there are ways we can improve. You see those roaring red clouds laced with nitrous oxide? How about all of that CO2 being emitted? We can easily combat this by reducing the number of cars on the road - Kuwait has been planning on building a metro, and after many reschedulings, the project finally starts this year. However, we as a community still need to push through to make this dream of an efficient transport system a reality.

14- Life underwater - We restore life in our oceans and seas.

Now here is where it gets a bit worrisome for Kuwait. Kuwait has had a rich history with water, from the times where the sea provided us with fish and intricate pearls; and now it ships our main export - oil - to the rest of the world. Then why do we have sewage pipes leading directly into the sea? Why are our corals bleaching to their pale deaths?

Along the areas of Sulaibiya, Kuwait Towers and the free zone beaches, marine pollution is extremely evident in the form of dumping of various kinds of solid waste such as industrial, construction, ship waste and litter that includes unrecyclable plastic and treated and untreated sewage waters, in addition to oil leaking from ships and boats.

What is frightening is the fact that many hospitals in the health zone in Shuwaikh that directly overlook the sea have been dumping their waste (usually contaminated with bacteria and microbes after treating infectious diseases and epidemics) directly into this beautiful abyss. This also leads to bad odors that have spoiled people's enjoyment of the sea.

This marine pollution has created unprecedented damage to marine life such as 'red tide' resulting from pouring sewage into the sea amidst high temperatures and humidity that eventually led to a lack of oxygen in the water, and as a result, the death of fish. Most recently, large quantities of oysters and crabs were found dead at Khairan's beaches.

It gets worse from here - we are importing bottlenose dolphins for a project here in Kuwait for entertainment.

However, we can change all this step-by-step - for one, the dolphins can be prevented from being held captive here through signing the petition "Say no to dolphins" on the care2 website. Whilst fines have been imposed to put a handle on this problem, with bins lining the beaches of Kuwait - we can see that the government has tried very hard to put a hold to this issue; now it's up to us as people to make a change.

15- Life on land - We restore and protect life on land, flora and fauna.

With the laws recently enforced in Kuwait regarding environmental control, rubbish is a lot more regulated now than ever in Kuwait. Sure, it may not seem like there is much to Kuwait's fauna because of the land (which prompted the growth of biohydro in Kuwait), and this year there was a territorial dispute with Iraq over land.

However, there are 25 mammal species in Kuwait, of which none are critically endangered, one is endangered, four are vulnerable, and one is near-threatened. One of the species can no longer be found in the wild. The Arabian leopard is critically endangered in Kuwait. And which is the extinct species? It's the Saudi gazelle, which was declared extinct back in 2008.

Organizations like PAWS, K'S PATH and KAREQ8 in Kuwait are helping feral animals in the country - but just like the environmental problem, making these organizations a lot more mainstream would help the cause. It is very difficult to find trends for flora in Kuwait due to a lack of it. However, this does not mean that flora has to be native. Kuwait has grown many decorative plants, namely date palms and hedges all around the country. A forest could be grown or a company could be founded that installs green roofs in Kuwait.

16- Peace, justice, and strong institutions - Where all governments are open and answer to justice, with everyone equal under its rule.

This is a key issue for people's day-to-day lives in Kuwait. Being an expat is quite difficult here. How do I know? Well, just having a look at some of the most recent articles all refer to the silenced voices of expats - and what is even more frightening is that there are even more that are kept quiet due to 'social inadequacies'. With new proposals now of taxing expats by up to 5 percent, the power of expats has been continuously decreasing over the years. This simply has to change.

17- Partnerships for the goal - Where countries and people work together in harmony, under all different kinds of hardships to complete these goals.

Kuwait is a beautiful example of harmony in the world. Ranking 19th in the world's most charitable countries (not surprising since we have organizations such as the Red Crescent), it has maintained strong ties to all countries around the world. However, more effectively is to lure it away from politics and try to find peace with relations in day-to-day life.

A large step forward is lifting visa restrictions on countries such as Pakistan - which ultimately strengthened the ties between the two countries. Doing so with migrants from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and Iran will be welcomed as well.

This relationship is based on trust and to fight the common enemy - Islamic State. According to Business Insider, a new report finds the IS caliphate "is on a path to collapse".

Some of these efforts have been from Kuwait and its multitude of allies, with plans by the US to send 1,000 troops here to fend IS off. Kuwait has also collectively with Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar given aid to Syrian refugees, amounting to over \$2.3 billion, which further proves Kuwait's strength to help out on the global field.

The only way Kuwait can help now is, despite its vulnerability, open up borders for Syrian refugees and provide for them, so they can join our growing community. Another way is to grant more power to expats as well. All in all, a good job!

Achieving these goals will need everyone's participation and involvement, including you. Where? In your own backyard of course! Your home. This is a plan to be completed by everyone, and no one can be left behind. We have 13 years left - let's make these years count! Let's make it happen!

Here are the specifics on the Global Goals <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/>

Local Spotlight

LIFE IS EXPENSIVE!

By Muna Al-Fuzai

muna@kuwaittimes.net

A recent local report said that there is a possibility of a hike in product prices in supermarkets during Ramadan. According to this report, the increase will range between 20 to 35 percent according to the type of commodity. This significant increase in prices during Ramadan will affect everyone. This is an issue that must be considered seriously.

There are no increases in salaries, rents are high, school fees and other fees such as residency are high and transportation costs are high too, so reports of price increases is a major cause for concern for people, because no one knows why prices are increasing and how to stop it!

Many studies tried to examine and analyze the real reasons behind the rise in prices in Kuwait, and one study in 2015 said Kuwait tops the Gulf in price increases compared to other GCC countries despite their economies, customs and traditions being similar. This indicates that there is an imbalance in the pricing of goods in the Kuwaiti market.

A GCC food industry report also predicted that Kuwait will record the fastest annual growth in food consumption in the Gulf between 2016 and 2021, with a compound annual growth rate of 5.5 percent. Food consumption in Kuwait is expected to reach 4.7 million metric tons in 2021.

With the holy month of Ramadan round the corner, it is natural to witness a race by people to buy various products for many reasons, including the connection of this month with many traditions that Muslims are accustomed to in terms of preparing for iftar and suhoor.

Although this blessed month is for worship and not food,

Muslim societies have characterized this month with the invitation of friends and relatives to their Ramadan tables on a daily basis. Unfortunately, we see that there are people, especially merchants, who are waiting impatiently for Ramadan, not as a religious occasion, but as an opportunity to make more money and exploit the high purchasing power in this holy month to make big profits, which puts more burdens on many Muslims.

Some people have even complained that as the month of Ramadan approaches, the cost of hiring domestic helpers has increased to about KD 1,500! There are many poor families that we must pay attention to during Ramadan, and we need to ensure that they receive their basic Ramadan needs free of charge or at nominal prices. Charitable societies should consider these people inside the county rather than focusing on people abroad.

Do we know why prices rise in Ramadan? I think the consumers are the reason. They act as if all goods will disappear and they will suffer from hunger and a lack of food. This I guess is a phenomenon fueled by rumors in the absence of correct information. Another reason is excessive and wrong eating habits during Ramadan and other consumer trends that are associated with the holy month.

It is necessary for the ministry of social affairs to intervene in forcing cooperative societies not to raise prices, whether in Ramadan or otherwise, as well as increase control and supervision to ensure that stores adhere to normal prices. They must also encourage competition between traders, so all goods will be available at reasonable prices. We need more media campaigns to spread awareness among consumers to avoid extravagance, in addition to not purchasing larger quantities and learning to compare prices before buying.

Demand for foodstuff increases in this month, which continues until mid-Ramadan, followed by a rise in demand for other items such as clothing and sweets that families are keen to buy for Eid Al-Fitr.

We need price controls - Ramadan is not an opportunity to make more money.

in my view

THE FUTURE OF PLASTICS

By Ghaleb Sarmini

local@kuwaittimes.net

2016 was an amazing year for the sciences, especially after a Japanese team discovered a new bacterium that is about to turn the world into a more eco-friendly place. Although plastic is not very eco-friendly, the world manufactures around 300 million tons each year, which is used almost in everything. If we look around, we have plastic everywhere around us. But a lot of organizations and big companies are trying to change plastic usage with paper use.

In Kuwait, stores like Sultan Center, Carrefour and Geant provide light biodegradable plastic bags that can decompose, or paper bags at a cheap price. Smart campaigns like Geant's "no plastic bag" drive reduced the consumption of plastic bags by 24 percent. This high plastic usage in Kuwait is due to a lot of reasons - Kuwait is an oil-producing country, the high population in Kuwait compared to its area, and a lack of water resources. Plastic waste affects water sources and aquatic life, considering Kuwait's demand for aquatic life as a source of food is pretty high.

The bacterium that was discovered in Japan in March 2016 can resolve many problems in Kuwait, and as we are a part of a governmental organization to make Kuwait a green place, we need to consider providing this bacterium in Kuwait. As the quote goes: "Treat the earth in a good way, and it will serve you forever." Plastics are polymers - usually, polymers are carbon-based monomers. Monomers polymerize to form a protein source or glucose, which makes it a good food for bacteria. The world started using plastic only around 80 years ago, and since it's a chemical product, natural microorganisms did not have enough time to adjust to it or get the ability to eat the plastic particles, because they're different than regular polymers.

Poly Ethylene Terephthalate C10H8O4 (PET) is a condensation polymer used in plastic that is highly resistant to biodegradation. It is produced by either terephthalic acid or dimethyl terephthalate with ethylene glycol. It's used in plastics products as it only costs \$5 a kilogram. The world uses around 9 million tons of PET bottles, of which merely 31.3 percent are recycled.

Landfills, wastewater treatment plants and aquatic life are affected strongly by the big amount of un-recycled PET bottles. The Japanese team at Kyoto University led by Dr Kohei Oda from the Kyoto Institute of Technology and Dr Kenji Miyamoto from Keio University had been working for almost five years, until they found the new bacterium that will finally be able to eat plastic waste. They named it ideonella Sakaiensis.

Around 250 different samples were collected and put with PET, so they only have PET as a source of life. What is different than previous tests is that they had other nutrients with the new bacterium, after isolating it totally, with PET. Ideonella Sakaiensis used its enzymes to speed up chemical reactions. The researchers identified the gene that is responsible for the process in the bacterium's DNA, and now they can manufacture it. PET can be broken down with this enzyme alone.

Economically, this new bacterium will play a big role in the plastics business. With the new ability to recycle plastics, big companies in Kuwait will be able to manufacture plastic products without costing them as much as before. That will also leave consumers on the safe side. Other than that, environmentally, this new bacterium is more than a massive achievement for planet earth. Since the past 80 years, some countries had serious issues getting rid of plastic waste, and they dumped such materials in the oceans.

According to a report 'Plastic Solid Waste Assessment in the State of Kuwait and Proposed Methods of Recycling' by S Al-Salem and M Al-Sami, research in 2000 in the GCC region showed plastic waste is increasing by 13.8 percent annually. Readers can imagine how important this bacterium will be to recycle these increasing amounts. The new enzymes discovered will be manufactured and used in recycling different types of plastic waste that humans had problems getting rid of in the past.

Needless to say, this is the first real recycling of plastics. Plastic products are usually melted and reshaped to make other plastic products, but now we have a good recycling option. This will lead to easy-to-handle chemicals that we can use in new plastic products or in other everyday products after this recycling system becomes a reality.

By recycling plastics, big companies in Kuwait will be able to manufacture plastic products more affordably.

in my view

TURKEY AND AMERICA - TWINS?

By Jeri Al-Jeri

local@kuwaittimes.net

It is impossible to have perfectly identical twins - however, similarities between Americans and Turks are closer than we expect. In her twenties, a zestful young American engineer named Kathrine Branning embarked to work on a world-class engineering project and booked her tickets without hesitation to travel to the other side of the world - the Muslim world. She did so after learning that the Turkish government was investing a large portion of its budget on building the Sultan Fatih Bridge to dramatically ease the flow of traffic in Istanbul, the Middle East megapolis. It was constructed over the Bosphorus Strait, a triumph of human ingenuity.

A team of Italian and Japanese engineers left after the completion of the project, but Branning stayed back and called Istanbul her home, due to her belief that the quality of the Turkish way of life couldn't be closer to the way people live in the United States. So what are the similarities between the two? And are there any major differences between them?

Both had empires that generated the creation of the current nation state system. The Abbasids created the necessary predicaments for the Seljuks - the original Turkish tribe - to conquer the great land of Constantinople in Anatolia. This historical event is mimicked by the leverage that the late great British Empire gave to its white, Western demographics over

the natives of North America. Turkey and America assimilated their novel and distinctive civilizations via marketing supremacy over their competitors. Their implementation of marketing skills was largely due to their highly lucrative geographies.

Both are lands of wealth and riches and logistical demands. This forced both to adopt homogeneity in their laws and regulations for all those who set foot in their "lands of the free", and yet have a strong monogamous identity which is ultimately versatile. Both became empires that fought wars and halted disputes related to their investments. This made both their people share similar attitudes towards themselves, the society and the rest of the world.

Turks of the modern day Republic of Turkey are blond-haired Christian Europeans, Arabs, Kurds and even Asians, who are all considered to be representative of "Turkiyemiz" - our Turkey. Iraqi-Americans fighting in Afghanistan and Asian-Americans raising the bar in Silicon Valley are the result of having a robust society that calls racism an epistemological sin. With stars and crescent on their flags, they both have an eye on the future, regardless of the down-to-earth realities of the past.

Turks and Americans are twins in being extremely zealous for success and having daring global entrepreneurs, and in being labeled as having "lesser" culture than old lady Europe or "lesser" linguistic abilities of old nomadic desert tribes of Arabia.

Nonetheless, these youthful mindsets have dominated their critics by embodying one of Steve Job's final quotes that he delivered in his last Stanford University speech, ironically expressing how uninteresting it is to be a graduate student over being an intellectual rebel. He delivered them with impunity from the podium of the institution, which in itself is very "American" and "Turkish" - "Stay hungry, stay foolish."

PHOTO FEATURE

NOW

Kuwait's famous 'Gazelle Club': Now & Then

HOME

PREV



ALADDIN'S LAMP OF THE MIDDLE EAST KUWAIT

By JOHN E. FRAZER

Photographs by DAVID F. CUPP

Where the boom began: Excess natural gas flares from Burgan oil field, perhaps the most productive in the world. Here in 1958 Kuwait's first well pushed into being; the ensuing bonanza fueled a postwar boom that turned a pastoral Bedouin society into the whirlwind of the 20th century. Symbols of the new affluence, automobiles sell so fast that Amer al-Shuaibi (right), owner of this experimental Plymouth sports car, has become the largest car distributor in the Middle East.



By Athoob Al-Shuaibi

The neighborhood of Abu Halifa, overlooking the coast, is a quiet one, despite the continuous demolition and construction works nearby. Residential villas and buildings isolate the area from the inconvenience and annoyance of the streets, and only the sounds of birds and sea waves can be heard during the day.



PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID F. CHAPMAN FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Posh playground, the Gazelle Club caters to wealthy foreigners and well-to-do Kuwaiti nationals. Drawn by dreams of a share in the riches, outsiders flock to Kuwait in such swarms that they now outnumber the country's citizens.

Touched by the magic wand of oil, the Cinderella city of Kuwait tosses away her crowded mud-walled homes and dons bright concrete-and-glass buildings. The Al Mirgab area, foreground, blends multistoried office buildings with long, low shopping arcades. Retaining the organization of the old souqs, or bazaars—a few of which still exist—some buildings specialize: cloth merchants in one, jewelers in another. The Abdullah al-Mubarak al-Sabah Mosque rises from one of Kuwait's more than 150 traffic circles.



Walking around, a rickety wall caught my eye. Broken glass was embedded at the top to prevent curious people, like myself, from sneaking into the empty yard behind it. However, it was accessible from the beach. On the side of the wall was a closed gate with a sign, smashed in a deliberate manner as if someone wanted to obliterate the memories of the place and its history.

Welcome to what was once called the Gazelle Club. The opening of this club dates back to the period between 1962 and 1964. The social club was established by the late Bader Al-Mulla, and his sister was responsible for the management. It was noted by Kuwaiti historian Hamad Al-Saeedan, author of the Kuwaiti Encyclopedia, that the club included many activities such as horseback riding, water skiing, swimming, sports and mental games. The club also contained a cinema, snooker hall and a ballroom.

The club was famous in its day, even mentioned in a National Geographic feature on the economic boom in Kuwait in a May 1969 edition.

Abu Abir, 54, who was a member of the club, recalled that it was difficult to get access to it. Only those of a particular class were allowed to become members. There were lots of Lebanese, though. "I used to go to the club with my wife and her family and some friends to enjoy the great musical atmosphere there. Our last visit was in 1990, right before the Iraqi invasion, when it was still at the height of its fame. The owner's sister was always present and loved to chat with the members of the club," he reminisced.

The invading Iraqi forces occupied the club and converted it into a military center, and built barriers after looting and destroying it. The place has been shut since then and never reopened. Despite the delightful memories narrated by Abu Abir, many conservatives greeted the news of its closure with a cheerful goodbye, because it wasn't in line with their opinions. At the time, the Gazelle Club was a symbol of freedom and tolerance in the country.

Were you a member of the Gazelle Club? We would love you to share your memories by emailing pictures to shuaibi@kuwaittimes.net

SHOP & WIN

30 AUDI A3

ALSO GET FREE GOLD COINS WITH EVERY PURCHASE



PURCHASE GOLD WORTH
KWD 50
GET 1
RAFFLE COUPON

PURCHASE DIAMOND OR
UNCUT JEWELLERY WORTH
KWD 50
GET 2
RAFFLE COUPONS

PURCHASE GOLD WORTH
KWD 200
GET 1 GOLD COIN
FREE

PURCHASE DIAMOND OR
UNCUT JEWELLERY WORTH
KWD 200
GET 2 GOLD COINS
FREE

KALYAN
JEWELLERS

THIS PROMOTION IS VALID ACROSS ALL OUTLETS IN INDIA, UAE, KUWAIT AND QATAR.

THE CAMPAIGN WILL HAVE 3 WINNERS FROM KUWAIT, 8 WINNERS FROM UAE, 4 WINNERS FROM QATAR AND 15 WINNERS FROM INDIA.

OFFER VALID TILL JUNE 9TH 2017.



AL DABBUS STREET, FAHAHEEL - 23921533 | OPP. SOUK AL-WATIYA, MALIYA - 22287633 | OPP. FRIDAY MARKET, AL RAI - 24752933
AL SALAM MALL, GROUND FLOOR, SALMIYA - 22251534
105 BRANCHES SPREAD ACROSS INDIA AND MIDDLE EAST / WWW.KALYANJEWELLERS.NET
FOLLOW US ON [f / KALYANJEWELLERSMIDDLEEAST](https://www.facebook.com/KALYANJEWELLERSMIDDLEEAST/) / [t @KALYANJEWELLERS](https://www.instagram.com/KALYANJEWELLERS)



Photos show the Gazelle Club during its prime and damaged after the 1990 Iraqi invasion. — Photos used with the permission of owner.

NOW



Photos of the area that once was the famous Gazelle Club. The buildings have mostly been razed and there only remain are a few scattered signs of the once popular social club.

— Photos by Athoob Al-Shuaibi



Summertime fun in Kuwait

Things to do outdoors in Kuwait

By Nawara Fattahova

People generally tend to mope about the hot weather and a lack of outdoor entertainment activities as summer approaches. They also tend to participate in indoor activities and avoid spending time outdoors. But there are many places and various outdoor activities that can be found in Kuwait during the summer.

Besides beach activities and sports that most people engage in either on public beaches or private clubs, they can also enjoy riding jet skis, which they can rent from various points on the seaside. Regarding seaside clubs, they all have annual membership schemes, while some allow nonmembers to enter for a fee.

Islands

Kuwaiti islands are very attractive to visit. If you own a boat, it's easy to reach any of the nine islands. For those who don't own one, they have a chance to visit Failaka Island, the only island that was inhabited, by a ferry that sails from Marina Crescent or a ferry that sails from Ras Al-Salmiya. This ferry was out of service for many months due to some problems at the port of Failaka, but is now sailing daily except Mondays. Visitors can also load their vehicles onboard the ferry to drive on the island. There is a museum, small zoo, pedal boats, beaches, a hotel and other facilities on Failaka Island.

Diving

Scuba diving is a great activity and sport. Various places offer diving courses in Kuwait for both genders. They usually hold training sessions in swimming pools of hotels, sports clubs or schools. Some organizers of these courses also take students for practical diving in the sea off various islands, but Qarouh is the most popular.

Entertainment

During daytime, due to the searing heat, the only outdoor activity has to be related to water, whether it's a swimming pool or the sea. Water parks with slides are a lot of fun, especially for kids. Aqua Park is the first, biggest and most popular water park in Kuwait. It's located near Kuwait Towers and is improving every year. New slides were added last year to ensure even more fun. Messila Water Village is another water park located in Messila near Jumeirah Beach Hotel. This park also provides various forms of water entertainment and holds competitions.

Seaside

Walking, jogging, or cycling can all be done by the seaside. Around two months ago, a bike rental service was also launched.

Games

Soap football is an interesting game full of fun that can be played by any number of players, depending on the group. On the seaside near Green Island, inflatable football 'fields' can be rented by the hour. They are partially filled with water and liquid soap so players can slip and slide while running for the ball.

Paintball

This is an action game suitable for both children and adults of both genders. Two teams play against each other in a war of colors shot from the rifles that contain small pellets that explode colorfully when they hit the 'enemy'. Players can choose the length of the game depending on the number of balls they buy. The paintball course is besides Aqua Park in a huge outdoor space.

Golf

Lovers of this classic game can practice their hobby on links at the Sahara Club located off the Sixth Ring Road. The club provides the equipment needed for playing this sport if you don't have your own.

Horse riding

Horse riding courses are available at the Hunting and Equestrian Club located off the Sixth Ring Road. Horse riding classes are also offered at farms in Wafra and other areas.

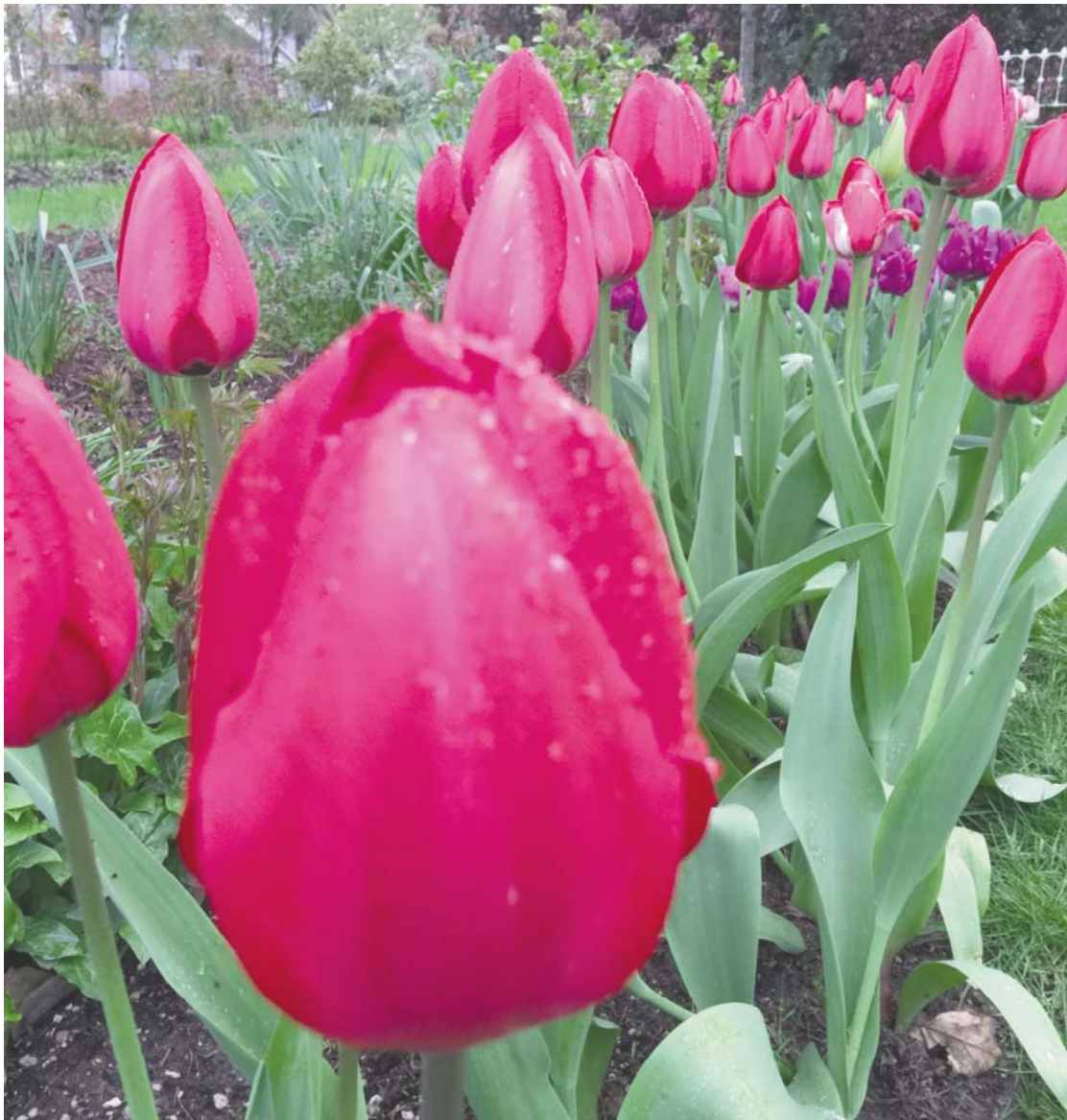
Karting

Karting, an exciting racing activity for children and adults, is available in two locations: Sirbb Circuit in Shuwaikh, which holds races for both genders and provides jumpsuits and helmets. The Jaber Al-Ahmad Circuit located off the Sixth Ring Road is another option. It also provides all equipment needed. At this circuit, car drifting shows are held during weekends.



Photo

o f t h e d a y



KUWAIT: A close-up photo captured a Tulip flower. The tulip is a Eurasian and North African genus of perennial, bulbous plants in the lily family. It is a herbaceous herb with showy flowers, of which around 75 wild species are currently accepted. — KUNA

KUWAIT ‘WAS KNOWN’ FOR BEING A BEACON OF CULTURE: AL-WAGAYYAN

DOHA: If creative freedom was encouraged and intellectual diversity was not restricted, Kuwait will have the main tools to return to cultural excellence similar to how it was in the 1950s-60s, Kuwaiti Poet and Intellectual Dr Khalifa Al-Wagayyan said yesterday. Al-Wagayyan made his remarks on the sideline of his participation in the sixth international conference on the Arabic Language, hosted by Qatar University.

The conference tackles several technical issues connected to the Arabic language’s intellectual development and expression. Al-Wagayyan said Kuwait has enjoyed more cultural freedom in the past and it was known for being a beacon of culture in the GCC region. Al-Wagayyan added he presented during the conference a work paper on the history of Kuwait’s culture excellence, which also highlighted the GCC country’s cultural role in the region.

There are documents dating back to the 1682, which were written in the region where Kuwait exists today, said Al-Wagayyan, adding that culture institutes existed in the modern state during the ear-



Kuwaiti Poet and Intellectual Dr Khalifa Al-Wagayyan honored

ly 1900s. Al-Wagayyan indicated that Kuwaiti historians like Sheikh Abdulaziz Al-Rushaid published Kuwait Magazine in 1928 and various other publications, which proved that Kuwait’s cultural excellence was not a product of recent times. He also noted that the beginning of Kuwait’s public theater dated back to 1939 when students and teachers ran a play in Al-Mubarkya School’s Theater. — KUNA

Crime

R e p o r t

TRAPPED IN THE CAR

KUWAIT: A citizen was trapped in his car after colliding with a concrete barrier on King Faisal road near Qurtuba area. Shuhada Rescue team rushed to the scene and freed the injured man took him to Amiri Hospital.

Girl attacked in chalet

Three Kuwaitis, a Saudi, Omani and a bedoon attacked a girl in a chalet for unknown reasons. Two Egyptians who attempted to help the girl were also beaten up mercilessly. The girl was screaming for help with bruises all over her body. Police have arrested the attackers.

Drug suspect nabbed

Newaiseeb customs officers searched the luggage of a man who seemed confused and found illicit tablets.

10-year-old rescued

Police rescued a child from a Kuwaiti in his mid 40s who kidnapped the kid in Saad Al-Abdallah area. The 10-year-old child was playing in front of his house when a pickup truck stopped and pulled him inside the vehicle and drove off. The victim’s 7-year-old brother told his mother, who ran out in the street in search of her son. Police patrols closed of the area located the pickup truck and found the child crying. The suspect was later arrested.

— By Hanan Al-Saadoun and Al Rai

AMF TO LAUNCH INITIATIVE FOR FINANCIAL INCLUSION

BEIRUT: The Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) is planning to launch a regional initiative for boosting financial inclusion in the Arab World, the AMF Director General Board Chairman Abdulrahman Al-Hamidy said yesterday. The AMF’s strategy for 2016-2020 pays major attention to financial inclusion as the fund has formed a task team to work on the issue under the umbrella of the Council of the Governors of the Arab Central Banks and Monetary Agencies, Al-Hamidy added in a televised statement delivered to a ceremony marking the Arab Day for Financial Inclusion, Beirut.

Financial inclusion or inclusive financing is the delivery of financial services at affordable costs to sections of disadvantaged and low-income segments of society, in contrast to financial exclusion where those services are not available or affordable. The team is working hard with all the regional and international institutions to exchange expertise and review the best world practices, for the launch of relevant strategies in the Arab world. Al-Hamidy stressed the significance of inclusive financing policies and strategies for realizing financial stability, economic growth and sustainable development.

On his part, head of the current session of the Council of the Governors of the Arab Central Banks and Monetary Agencies Abdulativ Al-Juwehrials said in a televised statement that “social justice is basic for success in economy,” underlining the importance of financial inclusion in this respect. The Arab central banks have sought, in cooperation with the AMF, to push ahead inclusive financing in the Arab World.

Financial inclusion has had a positive effect on Lebanon thanks to the projects launched by the banking sector, supported by the Banque Du Liban (Lebanon’s central bank), said Governor Riadh Salama. Financial infrastructure and systems, innovative financial products, financial capabilities and behavioral sciences, as well as financial consumer protection were the major topics discussed by three sessions held as part of the event marking the Arab Financial Inclusion Day. — KUNA

GCC CAPITAL MARKETS’ OFFICIALS DISCUSS INTEGRATION

MANAMA: Chairman of the commissioners of Kuwait’s Capital Markets Authority Dr Falah Al-Hajraf said yesterday that the GCC Finance Supervisory authorities discussed the integration strategy among the GCC capital markets. The project to attain the GCC markets’ merger helps in working out mechanisms for shoring up the GCC states’ economies and markets, said Al-Hajraf in a statement to KUNA after the 16th meeting of the GCC capital markets authorities.

The meeting, which grouped representatives of the GCC finance supervisory authorities and bourses, aimed at reaching a joint approach to attain integration among the GCC finance markets. Al-Hajraf indicated that he listened to the other conferees’ views on obstacles facing the GCC markets’ merger, noting that one of the key topics examined by the conferees was simultaneous opening of the stock markets in the GCC countries. He indicated that such a step is helpful to allow traders to be active in more than one regional market.

He indicated that further time was needed to tackle snags hampering such a move. The meeting was opened by Governor of the Central Bank of Bahrain and Chairman of the Bahrain stock market, Rashid Al-Mearaj. The conferees discussed a memo, inked by the GCC markets’ authorities in September 2015, for cooperation in training and expertise swap. They also examined the plan, prepared by the Kuwaiti authority, on the joint electronic gateway. The Kuwaiti delegation included, in addition to Al-Hajraf, the director of strategies bureau Zaid Khaldoun, the director of international relations bureau Abdulrahman Mahmoud Mohammad and director of the executive manager’s bureau Mou’ad Al-Shakhs.

OPEC, non-OPEC

Meanwhile, the OPEC and non-OPEC producers of the ‘Declaration of Cooperation’ to cut oil production will meet in

Vienna on May 25 and are most likely to renew the deal for six months more, according to informed sources in OPEC. Concluded in Vienna, Austria, in December 2016, the agreement brought together 24 of the world’s leading oil producers committing them to remove around 1.8 million barrels/day of crude oil from global supplies as of January 1, of 2017 over an initial six-month period that can be extended for a similar period. The main aim of the deal is to restore balance on the world’s oil market.

According to the deal, OPEC members are committed to cut production by around 1.2 million barrels per day (bpd), or over 3 percent, to 32.5 million bpd. Non-OPEC producers voluntarily decided to reduce output by 600,000 bpd. Russia alone will cut 300,000 bpd. Reports by a technical committee affiliated to the Joint Ministerial Monitoring Committee showed that both the OPEC and non-OPEC producers have manifested high levels of commitment to the deal. The OPEC Secretariat is now the venue of intensive technical meetings preparing for the ministerial gathering. More reports are being prepared on the developments of production and prices and commitment to the deal.

Referring to the decline of oil prices below \$50 per barrel, the sources said that the decrease is temporary and is the result of a state of uncertainty due to the world’s political developments. It is not related to supply and demand, and prices are expected to rise again thanks to commitment to the Vienna deal. They also stressed the necessity of carrying on with the cooperation between the OPEC and non-OPEC producers, especially on the side of major producers Like Saudi Arabia and Russia. During the Vienna meeting in December, Kuwait was selected to chair the Joint Ministerial Monitoring Committee. In March, the country hosted a meeting for the committee in March to assess commitment to the deal to cut production. — Agencies

AL-MUTTABA NEIGHBORHOOD - AN OLD AREA STILL REMEMBERED BY KUWAITIS

KUWAIT: Some areas around the world might be long gone or have completely shifted their landscapes, but the memories of these places remain in the hearts and minds of people who lived in them.

Al-Muttaba neighborhood is one these areas that is still engraved in Kuwaiti memory despite the passage of time. Some say that the neighborhood, in the eastern part of what is known now as

Kuwait City, was named Al-Muttaba due to it being situated in a low plain while others indicated that the name came from holes within the long-gone wall of Kuwait that people used to jump in to and out from.

Speaking about the history of the neighborhood, researcher Abdullah bin Nasser said that the neighborhood still exists but one could not say that the area was the same due to the well-known fact that Kuwait City have shifted from the clay houses populated area into a bustling modern metropolis. The neighborhood used to house a number of famous Kuwaiti families and also was known for being densely populated, said bin Nasser. He indicated that the area had several schools and monuments that survives until this day, revealing that Al-Muttaba mosque, founded in 1893, was one of these building that testify to the fame and good reputation of the area — KUNA



Photos show Al-Muttaba neighborhood. — KUNA Photos



News

in brief

Summit on marine life

KUWAIT: Kuwait Dive Team (KDT), affiliated with the Environmental Voluntary Foundation (EVF), has taken part in an educational conference on conserving marine life, organized by British universities for swapping expertise and know-how in the field. Member of the team Hamad Bouresli said yesterday that the team had taken part in the convention, organized by Dolce University, affiliated to the renowned universities, Cambridge and Oxford. The Kuwaiti team during the gathering studied plastic materials, their harmful effects and recycling plastic items. The team held a sideline pavilion presenting the Kuwaiti experience in conserving the marine environment. The Kuwaiti divers also examined a giant aquarium set up at the London zoo. The conference, which grouped teams from the US, Britain, Indonesia, Morocco, Tanzania and Mongolia, concluded on April 24th.

KRCS’ donation campaign

KUWAIT: Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) yesterday launched a three-day donation campaign at 360 Mall to help ease the suffering of 14 million people in Yemen. Deputy Chairman of KRCS Anwar Al-Hasawi said that this campaign was part of a previously organized venture to help the people in Yemen. The first one started at KRCS headquarters, the second in Avenue Mall, and now in 360 Mall, he said. Al-Hasawi called on citizens and residents alike to answer this campaign and help ease the suffering of Yemeni people. The aid campaign will include sending food supplies, health kits, and power generators to Yemen, the KRCS Deputy chief affirmed.



MP Waleed Al-Tabtabaei, treasurer of the caucus

‘Asian human being’

MANAMA: The Kuwaiti Parliamentary Caucus offered a draft resolution to the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) regarding the building of the ‘Asian human being’ through setting up a center for professional and technical training. Following a meeting of APA’s standing economic and sustainable development committee, MP Waleed Al-Tabtabaei, treasurer of caucus, said in a press statement that the draft would be discussed during the next meeting. MP Khalil Abdullah urged countries to support establishing the center as it will have a key role in training people in Asia and enhancing their potentials. He stressed the need of encouraging parliaments to take serious steps in order to achieve this goal. The committee over two days discussed several topics like combating poverty, backing implementation of sustainable development goals and others.

GCC states’ meeting

KUWAIT: First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah departed yesterday to Riyadh. The Kuwaiti Ministers left to attend the Interior, Foreign and Defense Ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) States’ meeting. It would be chaired by Saudi Crown Prince and Interior Minister Prince Mohammad Bin Nayef. A delegation of senior officials in the Interior, Foreign and Defense Ministries accompanied the ministers along with the Kuwaiti Ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

Friday Times International

FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 2017

Russian spy ship sinks off Turkey's Black Sea coast



Firebrand pundit Coulter cancels UC Berkeley talk



Tiny Jewish community lives on in Indonesia



A photo taken from the rebel-held town of Douma shows flames rising in the distance which are believed to be coming from Damascus International Airport following an explosion early in the morning yesterday. — AFP

ISRAEL STRIKES NEAR DAMASCUS AIRPORT

REBEL SOURCES SAY AIRPORT USED BY IRAN TO RESUPPLY HEZBOLLAH

AMMAN/BEIRUT: Israel struck an arms supply hub operated by the Lebanese group Hezbollah near Damascus airport yesterday, targeting weapons sent from Iran via commercial and military cargo planes, Syrian rebel and regional intelligence sources said. Video carried on Arab TV and shared on social media showed the pre-dawn airstrikes caused a fire around the airport east of the Syrian capital, suggesting fuel sources or weapons containing explosives were hit.

Syrian state media said Israeli missiles hit a military position southwest of the airport, but did not mention arms or fuel. It said "Israeli aggression" had caused explosions and some material losses, but did not expand on the damage. In a sign of the heightened tensions surrounding a conflict that has already caught up regional and international powers, Damascus' ally Russia criticized the Israeli strike and said Syrian sovereignty should be respected.

Israel does not usually comment on action it takes in Syria. But Intelligence Minister Israel Katz, speaking to Army Radio from the United States, appeared to confirm involvement. "The incident in Syria corresponds completely with Israel's policy to act to prevent Iran's smuggling of advanced weapons via Syria to Hezbollah," he said. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had "said that whenever we receive intelligence that indicates an intention to transfer advanced weapons to Hezbollah, we will act", he added. An Israeli military spokeswoman said: "We can't comment on such reports."

Two senior rebel sources in the Damascus area, citing moni-

tors in the eastern outskirts of the capital, said five strikes hit an ammunition depot used by Iran-backed militias. Lebanon's Al-Manar television, which is affiliated with Hezbollah, said early indications were that the strikes hit warehouses and fuel tanks. It said there no casualties.

Russia and Iran Back Assad

President Bashar Al-Assad is backed in Syria's six-year-old civil war by Russia, Iran and regional Shi'ite militias. These include Hezbollah, a close ally of Tehran and enemy of Israel, which describes the group as the biggest threat it faces on its borders. The two fought a month-long war in 2006. Syrian military defectors familiar with the functioning of the airport during the war said on Thursday that it plays a major role as a conduit for arms from Tehran.

Alongside military planes, a number of commercial cargo aircraft fly from Iran to resupply arms to Hezbollah and other groups, passing through Iraqi airspace, the defectors said. As well as weapons, hundreds of Shi'ite militia fighters from Iraq and Iran have been flown to Damascus international airport, they said. Intelligence sources put their numbers at 10,000 to 20,000 and say they play a significant role in military campaigns launched by the Syrian army. Israel has largely kept out the war in Syria, but officials have consistently referred to two red lines that have prompted a military response in the past - any supply of advanced weaponry to Hezbollah, and the establishment of "launch sites" for attacks on Israel from the Golan Heights region. — Reuters

KNIFEMAN ARRESTED NEAR UK PARLIAMENT

LONDON: Police swooped on a man armed with knives meters away from the Houses of Parliament in London yesterday, arresting him on suspicion of preparing "acts of terrorism". The 27-year-old man was pinned to the ground in the middle of the road close to the Treasury and entrances to Westminster station on the London Underground train network. The area has been on a state of heightened alert since a deadly attack on March 22 perpetrated by Khalid Masood, a 52-year-old convert to Islam. Masood drove into pedestrians, killing four, and stabbed a police officer to death at the gates of parliament before being shot dead by an armed officer. London's Scotland Yard police headquarters said nobody was injured in yesterday's incident. They said the man was arrested at 2:22pm (1322 GMT) following a "stop and search" procedure as part of an ongoing operation. The man "was arrested on suspicion of possession of an offensive weapon and on suspicion of the commission, preparation and instigation of acts of terrorism", Scotland Yard said. "Knives have been recovered from him. "He is being detained under the Terrorism Act and is in custody in a south London police station. — AFP

FAITH, POLITICS CLASH AS AZHAR PRESSED TO REFORM

CAIRO: When Pope Francis visits Egypt's Al-Azhar this week, he will find support for his message of peace in the

venerable Islamic authority praised as a bulwark against extremism. But his visit comes as Al-Azhar, which runs one

of the world's oldest universities, is under fire from critics within Egypt who say the Sunni Muslim institution has itself become part of the problem. Al-Azhar had been at the center of a messy collision between politics and theology since President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi began campaigning for religious reforms, with profound implications for Islamic doctrine.

A former army chief who overthrew his Islamist predecessor in 2013, Sisi believes that Islamist extremists have not been properly challenged on theological grounds. "He thinks that extremist ideas have thoroughly infiltrated Muslim societies and they are latent" but could set off "a tidal wave of devastation," said a member of a foreign delegation that met Sisi. Al-Azhar and its Grand Imam Ahmed al-Tayeb have warily endorsed Sisi's call for reforms.

Dating back almost 1,000 years, the

prestigious institution runs a university and schools across the country, and thousands of international students from as far as China come to study religion and return home as clerics. The clergy of the traditional Sunni bastion loathes the theology of jihadists inspired by the puritan Salafism dominant in Saudi Arabia.

Resisting interference

Privately, however, many of Al-Azhar's clergy and professors resent the former army officer's attempt to reshape Islamic thought. The manner in which he pushed for the reforms further scandalized some clerics, especially when he suggested that he would complain about them to God if his call went unheeded. "By God, I will contest you before God on the Day of Judgement," Sisi told the clerics in a 2015 speech outlining the need for religious reforms. — AFP



CAIRO: Egyptians walk past a welcome banner bearing a portrait of Pope Francis, a day ahead of his visit to the capital yesterday. — AFP

TUNISIA COASTGUARD TACKLES SMUGGLERS

BIZERTE, Tunisia: Dimming the lights on their patrol boat, Tunisian coastguards stand in silence scanning the sea for speedboats on clandestine missions to and from Italy. Smuggling gangs are using high-performance vessels to ferry people, drugs and cigarettes across the Strait of Sicily, a distance of just 150 km. Commander Mohamed Naceur Saadani says their use of speedboats is a "new and dangerous" phenomenon.

Standing on the bridge of a patrol boat capable of 40 knots (about 70 km per hour), he monitors a bank of glowing radar screens. Patrolling Tunisia's northern coast during a 24-hour operation, the crew are on particularly high alert at night, as the smugglers prefer to operate under cover of darkness. Migrants seeking a better future have long used Tunisia as a launchpad for bids to reach Europe.

But amid the turmoil that followed Tunisia's 2011 revolution that unseated strongman president Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, smugglers have strengthened links between the North African country and Italy, Saadani said. While the northbound traffic consists mostly of clandestine migrants and cheap cigarettes, Tunisian authorities say they are dealing with a growing influx of drugs coming in the opposite direction.

In mid-March, Tunisia seized an "unprecedented" haul of more than 30 kilos of pure cocaine worth around \$6.4 million. That shows that "a major international network is behind the operation", says Mohamed Walid Ben Ali, a coastguard at La Goulette port on the edge of Tunis. National Guard spokesman Khalifa Chibani says Tunisia is mainly a transit point and the drugs are destined for neighbouring countries, particularly Libya. — AFP



BIZERTE, Tunisia: A member of the Tunisian coastguard inspects the maritime borders in the region off Tunisia's northern town, during a 24-hour patrol of the area on March 30, 2017. — AFP



A picture taken on September 21, 2016 shows the Liman, a Russian naval spy ship, passing through the Bosphorus on its way to Syria. — AFP

RUSSIAN SPY SHIP SINKS OFF TURKEY'S BLACK SEA COAST

VESSEL COLLIDES WITH LIVESTOCK CARRIER

ISTANBUL: A Russian naval spy ship yesterday sank in the Black Sea off Turkey's coast after hitting a Togo-flagged vessel packed with livestock but all of its 78 crew were rescued by Turkish coastguards. The Russian military said the Liman - a former research ship re-fitted as an intelligence vessel - had a hole ripped out of its hull in the early afternoon incident. The collision took place in fog outside the northwestern entrance to the Bosphorus Strait, one of the world's biggest shipping thoroughfares that passes through Istanbul into the Sea of Marmara.

The Turkish coastguard said in a statement that the collision involved the Togo-flagged vessel Youzarsif H which was carrying a cargo of livestock. It said that of 78 Russian personnel on board the ship, 63 were rescued by the Turkish coastguard and the other 15 by the Youzarsif H itself. They were then transferred to a Turkish military ship, it said, without giving further details. "All the personnel were evacuated," it said.

'Sad accident'

Turkish media said the Youzarsif suffered minor damage and went on its way after the incident. The Russian defense ministry confirmed the ship had gone down and said the crew were safe and would be taken from a Turkish vessel back onto a Russian ship. Turkish news agency Dogan said the area where the ships collided was shrouded in thick fog at the time, suggesting that the incident was accidental.

Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim spoke to his Russian

counterpart Dmitry Medvedev by phone over the incident, describing it as an accident and expressing his sadness, the state-run Anadolu news agency said. It was not known where the Liman was sailing from or its destination. The ship was built as a hydrography research vessel in 1970 but turned into a spy ship in 1989 and armed with an Igla missile launcher, according to public records.

'Russia wants it back'

Russian warships have travelled frequently through the Bosphorus Strait to and from the Syrian coast, where a navy presence has been deployed to bolster Russia's air campaign in support of President Bashar Al-Assad. In February, military sources told Russian media that Liman would be observing NATO's Sea Shield exercise in the Black Sea.

Cem Devrim Yaylali, an Istanbul-based Turkish naval expert and editor of the Bosphorus Naval News website, said the Liman had previously been to the Syrian coast but it was not clear where it was headed on this occasion. "A collision is not something that happens very frequently," he told AFP. He said the incident was an embarrassment for the Russian authorities as the Liman was likely carrying sensitive surveillance equipment that Moscow would want returned. "I imagine there will be a salvage effort to raise the ship before anyone else sees it," he said. "If the ship cannot be salvaged then Russia surely will try to take away the sensitive equipment from on board by divers." — AFP

LE PEN PURSUING GUERRILLA TACTICS TO UNSETTLE MACRON

FAR-RIGHT CANDIDATE GOES ON SEA TRIP

PARIS: French far-right presidential candidate Marine Le Pen hopped on to a fishing boat at dawn yesterday as she pursued a guerrilla-style campaign that has upstaged frontrunner Emmanuel Macron. It was still dark when Le Pen boarded the trawler at the small port of Grau-du-Roi on the south coast for a

more than an hour debating with workers amid chaotic scenes as dozens of TV camera teams crowded around him.

On the attack

Le Pen, 48, was back on the attack on Thursday saying her rival, a former banker, supported "an ultra-liberal econo-

backed him too. But Macron, a former economy minister who has never held elected office, faced criticism after topping the vote in the first round that he made a complacent start to his second-round campaign. Le Pen has tried to capitalize by popping up in industrially depressed areas of northern France before the journey to the Mediterranean coast. Later yesterday, she was to hold a major rally in the Riviera city of Nice, a rightwing stronghold where she will try to win over voters who preferred Francois Fillon - the conservative candidate who was knocked out in Sunday's first round.

'No respite'

Macron, stung by the criticism that he was not taking the fight to his rival, told supporters on Wednesday: "I will not allow her a centimetre of space, not a second of respite, not an ounce of energy." The "Battle of Amiens" at the Whirlpool factory - as leftwing daily Liberation called it - was the standout moment of the campaign so far, even though the candidates were not at the site at the same time.

Le Pen's supporters seized on comments from high-profile economist Jacques Attali, who backs Macron, that the Whirlpool issue was a mere "anecdote" of the campaign. There was a reminder of the legal woes surrounding her campaign when a source in the French investigation into alleged FN expenses fraud at the European Parliament said the sum involved was now believed to be nearly five million euros (\$5.5 million), more than twice an initial estimate. The parliament accuses the FN of using funds meant for parliamentary assistants to pay staff including a bodyguard to work in France between 2012 and 2017, which contravenes the assembly's rules. In March, Le Pen invoked her immunity as an MEP in refusing to submit to questioning by French prosecutors until after the election. — AFP



LE GRAU-DU-ROI, France: French presidential election candidate for the far-right Front National (FN) party Marine Le Pen gestures aboard a fishing boat after meeting fishermen in the harbor early yesterday. —AFP

four-hour trip out to sea, seeking to portray herself as the protector of small businesses against the man she says embodies "unbridled globalization".

Le Pen stole a march on 39-year-old Macron on Wednesday by making an unannounced visit to a Whirlpool factory in northern France where the US appliances giant is threatening to partially outsource production to Poland. Her brief visit to pose for selfies with workers forced Macron, who was visiting the town where the factory is based, to hastily change his plans and also go to the site. The besuited Macron spent

my" and "total deregulation". Macron hit back in a Twitter message that reminded voters of the National Front (FN) candidate's pledge to pull out of the eurozone and hold a referendum on France's membership of the European Union. "Madame Le Pen has gone fishing. Have a good trip. Withdrawing from Europe as she proposes would mean the end of the French fishing industry. Think about that," he wrote.

The latest poll suggests Macron will defeat Le Pen by a margin of 21 points in the runoff on May 7, and figures from France's traditional left and right - both absent from the second round - have



BERLIN: German Chancellor Angela Merkel waves prior to her speech about the European Union at the German parliament Bundestag yesterday. —AP

MERKEL WARNS BRITAIN OVER BREXIT 'ILLUSIONS'

BERLIN: Germany's Angela Merkel told Britain yesterday it should have no "illusions" it would retain the rights of an EU member after Brexit, hardening the tone ahead of a summit of the remaining 27 nations. "A third-party state will not have the same rights or even superior rights to a member state," the German chancellor told parliament two days before the meeting in Brussels. "This may sound self-evident, but I have to say this clearly because some in Britain seem to have illusions on this point," she said. "That would be a waste of time."

The leaders of the other 27 EU nations have stressed a united stance as they plan to meet tomorrow to set down the bloc's "red lines" - although the talks will not begin until June, after Britain's election. "The negotiations will be very demanding, without a doubt," said Merkel, the leader of the biggest EU economy. British Prime Minister Theresa May's spokesman, in a brief reaction, said only that London was approaching the negotiations "in a constructive spirit and with enormous goodwill". — AFP

FRENCH COURT REFUSES TO EXTRADITE KOSOVO EX-PM

COLMAR, France: A French court on Thursday rejected a request from Serbia to extradite Kosovo's former prime minister Ramush Haradinaj over accusations of war crimes committed in the 1990s, sparking outrage in Belgrade. Haradinaj, 48, was arrested by French police on January 4 when he flew into the Franco-Swiss airport of Basel-Mulhouse, but he is free to return home following Thursday's decision by the court in Colmar, eastern France.



Ramush Haradinaj

The ruling was welcomed by authorities in Kosovo but slammed in Belgrade by Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic, who said Serbia's ambassador to France would be recalled for consultations. Haradinaj, an ex-commander in the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), has already been tried and acquitted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia over allegations of war crimes committed in 1998 during the Kosovo conflict. But Belgrade issued an international arrest warrant over separate charges of violence against Serbian civilians in Kosovo in June 1999. The French court ruled that extradition to Serbia would lead to "consequences of exceptional gravity" for the accused.

'Rambo'

The 1998-1999 conflict pitted the pro-independence KLA rebels against the forces of late Serbian strongman Slobodan Milosevic. A predominantly ethnic Albanian province, Kosovo unilaterally declared independence a decade after the war, a move since recognized by more than 100 countries but not by Belgrade or its ally Russia. Haradinaj - known as "Rambo" for his stocky build and military prowess - is considered a hero by many at home for his role in the fight for sovereignty.

Thousands of ethnic Albanians protested in Pristina and other cities against his arrest, while hundreds of his supporters greeted him with cheers outside the court on Thursday. "I have lost four months through this procedure," Haradinaj said after ruling, but "this decision gives me the opportunity to continue with my political obligations". A lawmaker who briefly served as premier from 2004 and now leads an opposition party, Haradinaj told AFP in an interview this month that he was the victim of "political persecution". — AFP

JOHNSON SAYS CORBYN NO 'MUGWUMP', BUT THREAT

LONDON: British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson told voters not to dismiss opposition Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn as a harmless "mutton-headed old mugwump" but rather to see him as a serious threat to the economy and national security. In his first intervention in the campaign ahead of a snap election due on June 8, the Conservative politician argued that it would be disastrous for Britain if veteran leftist Corbyn became prime minister instead of Theresa May.

Corbyn accused Johnson of "personal name-calling" and said what was needed was a serious debate about issues such as housing, education, health and foreign affairs. In a column in The Sun newspaper published on Thursday, Johnson said people who watched Corbyn "floundering" in debates with May in parliament with his "meandering and nonsensical questions" may conclude that he would never be prime minister. "Well, they say to themselves: he may be a mutton-headed old mugwump, but he is probably harmless," Johnson wrote. "The biggest risk with Jeremy Corbyn is that people just don't get what a threat he really is," he said.

Asked in an interview on ITV television what he meant by "mugwump", which the Oxford English Dictionary defines as "a person who remains aloof or independent, especially from party politics", Johnson did not explain the word. "It's a long time since I read it, but I think it was in 'Charlie and the



ESSEX: Britain's opposition Labour Party Leader Jeremy Corbyn addresses supporters during a campaign meeting in Harlow Town Park yesterday. — AFP

Chocolate Factory," he said, referring to a popular children's novel by Roald Dahl.

Asked about the "mugwump" comment while out on the campaign trail, Corbyn dismissed it as a personal attack unworthy of the issues at stake in the election campaign. "We approach this in a responsible, serious way. I leave that kind of language to others," he told the BBC. — Reuters

ISRAEL SEEKS TO AVERT IRAN FOOTHOLD IN SYRIA

WASHINGTON: Israel is seeking an "understanding" with the Trump administration that Iran must not be allowed to establish a permanent military foothold in Syria, Israel's intelligence minister told Reuters

on Wednesday. In an interview, visiting Intelligence Minister Yisrael Katz said he was also using his meetings with White House officials and key lawmakers to press for further US sanctions on Iran and the

Iranian-backed Lebanese militia Hezbollah, which is supporting Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

"I want to achieve an understanding, an agreement between the US and Israel ...

not to let Iran have permanent military forces in Syria, by air, by land, by sea," Katz told Reuters, saying this should be part of any future international accord on ending Syria's six-year-old civil war. — Reuters





Premier Brands

To see your ad here, call:
+965 248 35 616 / 617
E-Mail: info@kuwaittimes.net
Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

2017 / 04 / 30 إلى 2017 / 04 / 05 فترة العرض من 2017 / / 21 حتى

APRIL Explosive OFFERS

360 ليتر

Panasonic NR-BC36SWAS

- 12.6 Cu.Ft
- White Color
- Multi air flow
- No Frost

134 دينار
159 دينار **25** دينار

Panasonic NR-BC105WAS

400 ليتر

- 14 Cu.Ft
- White Color
- Multi-air flow
- No Frost

144 دينار
169 دينار **25** دينار

Panasonic NR-BSG0SWAS

602 ليتر

- Side by Side
- White Color
- No Frost

189 دينار
239 دينار **50** دينار



best بست
AL-YOUSIFI اليوسفي

Credit: Start from 5KD • Up to 48 month • Instant approval

• Kuwait 1 (Jde New str.) • Kuwait 2 (Panasonic Tower) • Hawalli 1 (Tania str.) • Hawalli 2 (Bin Khadden str.) • Shuwaik (Al-Ring road) • Al-Rai (Al-Ring road) • Safatya (Safat Al-Mubarak str.) • Farwaniya (Behind police Station) • Fahsheel (Opp. General Parking) • Jahra (Opp. Main Co-op) • Airport (Departure Hall)

Shop Online www.best.com.kw Free Delivery

1809 809



BUILT TOUGH BUILT FOR PROFITS





15 Seater AC Bus
From KD 3999



Standard Roof Van
From KD 3499



58 Seater AC Bus



Light Duty Truck
• Eicher 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 with AC Cabin
• Payload: 4 - 20 Tons

- Warranty upto 100,000 kms / 5 years
- Service Package: Upto 30,000 kms / 3 yrs
- 3rd Party Insurance & Registration



الشركة الكويتية لاستيراد السيارات ذ.م.م.
Kuwait Automotive Imports Co. W.L.L.

اتصل على:
5501 5636 / 6902 4472
KACI available on

- Warranty upto 200,000 kms / 2 years*
- Service Package
- VE COMMERCIAL VEHICLES



A VEEDER GROUP AND LUTHER INDUSTRIES JOINT VENTURE

Call: 5501 5636 / 6902 4472

CANADA NO HAVEN FOR MIGRANTS FLEEING US

TORONTO/WINNIPEG, Manitoba: Migrants who applied for asylum in the United States but then fled north, fearing they would be swept up in President Donald Trump's immigration crackdown, may have miscalculated in viewing Canada as a safe haven. That is because their time in the United States could count against them when they apply for asylum in Canada, according to a Reuters review of Canadian federal court rulings on asylum seekers and interviews with refugee lawyers.

In 2016, 160 asylum cases came to the federal courts after being rejected by refugee tribunals. Of those, 33 had been rejected in part because the applicants had spent time in the United States, the Reuters review found. Lawyers said there could be many more such cases among the thousands of applicants who were rejected by the tribunals in the same period but did not appeal to the federal courts.

The 2016 court rulings underscore the potentially precarious legal situation now facing many of the nearly 2,000 people who

have crossed illegally into Canada since January. Most of those border crossers had been living legally in the United States, including people awaiting the outcome of US asylum applications, according to Canadian and US government officials and Reuters interviews with dozens of migrants.

Trump's tough talk on illegal immigration, however, spurred them northward to Canada, whose government they viewed as more welcoming to migrants. There, they have begun applying for asylum, citing continued fears of persecution or violence in their homelands, including Somalia and Eritrea. But Canadian refugee tribunals are wary of "asylum-shopping" and look askance at people coming from one of the world's richest countries to file claims, the refugee lawyers said.

"Abandoning a claim in the United States or coming to Canada after a negative decision in the United States, or failing to claim and remaining in the States for a long period of time - those are all big negatives. Big, big neg-

atives," said Toronto-based legal aid lawyer Anthony Navaneelan, who is representing applicants who came to Canada from the United States in recent months. The Canadian government has not given a precise figure on how many of the border crossers were asylum seekers in the United States.

But it appears their fears may have been misplaced. Trump's attorney general, Jeff Sessions, has said that anyone in the United States illegally is subject to deportation, but there is no evidence that asylum seekers with pending cases are considered illegal under the new administration.

'Lack of Seriousness'

The asylum seekers will make their cases before Canada's refugee tribunals, which rejected 5,000 cases last year. The tribunals' decisions are not made public, so the reasons are not known. An Immigration and Refugee Board spokeswoman confirmed, however, that an applicant's time in the United States can be a factor in a tribunal's

decision. Rejected applicants can appeal to Canada's federal courts, whose rulings are published. The federal courts upheld 19 of the 33 tribunal rejections they heard last year and recommended fresh tribunal hearings for the other 14 cases.

The judges believed those claimants had a good explanation for having been in the United States first. The outcomes of the new tribunal hearings are not known. The federal court handles only a small portion of all applications rejected by the refugee tribunals. But overall, applicants who have spent time in the United States have a higher chance of being rejected, said multiple immigration lawyers, including two former refugee tribunal counsel, interviewed by Reuters. Last year, a federal judge upheld a refugee tribunal rejection of Sri Lankan man who had abandoned a pending US claim. The tribunal said the man's decision demonstrated a "lack of seriousness" and was "inconsistent with the expected behavior" of someone who fears persecution in their own country. — Reuters

LIES AND CITIZENSHIP LOSS: TOP US COURT WEIGHS IN APPLICANTS MUST MENTION ANY CRIMINAL RECORD

WASHINGTON: Can a lie strip a naturalized American of citizenship? That's what the US Supreme Court is weighing in the case of a Bosnian Serb couple who didn't come clean about the husband's wartime past. Divna Maslenjak broke US law when she failed to tell US embassy staff that her husband was in the Bosnian Serb army during the darkest days of the 1992-1995 Bosnian war when she applied for US asylum for her family, which they received in 1999.

As a result, US government lawyers contended Wednesday, Maslenjak's acquisition of US citizenship eight years later is void. She and her family were declared illegal and deported from America to Serbia last October. But the Supreme Court justices questioned whether omissions seen to be lies were in themselves enough to forfeit American citizenship. The answer will have repercussions not just for the Maslenjaks, but potentially for millions of other immigrants, refugees and naturalized citizens.

Citizenship is 'priceless'

Every year, some 780,000 people become American by choice, through a process requiring them to be of "good moral character." They must mention any criminal record or past offenses, even minor ones. If someone is later deemed to have lied, the US Citizenship and Immigration Services, part of the Homeland Security Department, says their "citizenship may be taken away". But the nine justices seemed concerned about the immense power the government has to revoke citizenship after an omission or untruth in the application process, whether voluntary or not.

"It seems to me that your argument is demeaning the priceless value of citizenship," Justice Anthony Kennedy told the government lawyer. Another judge, Stephen Breyer, conjectured that a per-



OLYMPIA, Washington: New Washington State Patrol troopers bow their heads during a prayer at the Patrol's graduation ceremonies in the Capitol rotunda on Wednesday. — AP

son simply carrying a penknife where it was illegal could end up seeing American citizenship yanked away. Justice Sonia Sotomayor imagined a refugee who made no mention of a disliked childhood nickname. The court's presiding judge, John Roberts, wondered whether not flagging a traffic violation could trigger loss of citizenship.

If someone "not answering about the speeding ticket or the nickname is enough to subject that person to denaturalization, the government will have the opportunity to denaturalize anyone they want," Roberts observed. The government lawyer, Robert Parker, replied that naturalization was "the highest privilege the United States can bestow upon an individual." Laws passed by Congress, he said, "required that individuals who seek that high privilege must scrupulously comply with every rule governing the naturalization process."

'Material' lie?

In the case of Divna Maslenjak, her husband was in the Bosnian Serb army when it was linked to the worst atrocity during the Bosnian war: the 1995 massacre in Srebrenica of 8,000 men and boys. But when applying for asylum, she told the US embassy in Serbia that Ratko Maslenjak had stayed out of the army between 1992 and 1997 and feared reprisals for that.

When the untruth was discovered by US authorities, she did not deny it, but argued that it had no bearing on her refugee application, based on the fact that her family lived in a Muslim-majority area where they risked persecution from Bosnian Muslims. Her lawyer, Christopher Landau, said it was up to the US government to prove that "the false statement was material" to the asylum decision, and "the whole issue about her husband's military service was really not the basis for it." — AFP

FIREBRAND PUNDIT COULTER CANCELS UC BERKELEY TALK

LOS ANGELES: Conservative firebrand Ann Coulter on Wednesday canceled a planned appearance at the University of California, Berkeley, saying she had lost the backing of the groups that had sponsored her talk. "It's a sad day for free speech," Coulter told the New York Times. The right-wing commentator had insisted she would show up at Berkeley, a famously progressive campus, on Thursday even though the university said it could not provide a suitable venue because of security threats.

But Coulter said she was forced to reconsider her decision after the conservative Young America's Foundation and the Berkeley College Republicans, which had sponsored her talk, backed out, accusing the university of creating a "hostile atmosphere." "Everyone who should believe in free speech fought against it or ran away," Coulter told the Times. The controversy over her talk put the spotlight on the San Francisco-area university long heralded as the birthplace of the Free Speech Movement of the 1960s.

University officials have insisted that security could not be guaranteed during Coulter's visit, citing threats and recent violent protests. They proposed an alternate date - rejected by Coulter - when fewer students would be on campus. She is a conservative firebrand, author, attorney and political commentator. She is famous for blunt attacks on those who don't share her views. Her 2015 tome on immigration was called "Adios, America! The Left's Plan to Turn Our Country Into a Third World Hellhole."

'University not a battlefield'

Berkeley Chancellor Nicholas Dirks underlined in a letter to the campus community on Wednesday that the university was committed to free speech but also to safety. "Sadly and unfortunately, concern for student safety seems to be in short supply in certain quarters," he said. "This is a university, not a battlefield," he added. "We must make every effort to hold events at a time and location that maximizes the chances that First Amendment rights can be successfully exercised and that community members can be protected."

In February, a planned speech at the university by a right-wing provocateur and former Breitbart editor, Milo Yiannopoulos, was cancelled following violent protests that caused \$100,000 worth of damage to the campus. Violence has also erupted on the streets of the city during recent events that drew opponents and supporters of President Donald Trump. The latest controversy surrounding Coulter's visit has tested Berkeley's legacy as a champion of free speech and elicited criticism from both Democrats and Republicans. — AFP

40 YRS ON, ARGENTINA 'MOTHERS' STILL MARCHING

BUENOS AIRES: Just as she does every Thursday, Taty Almeida ties her white scarf around her head, grabs her cane and joins her fellow octogenarian protesters to march around the square outside Argentina's pink presidential palace. Defying their advancing years, the bereaved mothers making up Argentina's most famous human rights group still gather here every week, demanding answers on what happened to the children they lost during the country's brutal military dictatorship.

The Mothers of May Square - Madres de la Plaza de Mayo in Spanish - turns 40 this week, a milestone that finds its members increasingly frail but ever determined to see their children's killers brought to justice. The group was born on April 30, 1977, when 14 women gathered to protest the military dictatorship installed in a coup the year before. They

dared to challenge the regime at a time when repression was at its height.

They risked the same fate as their political activist children - torture, death or simply disappearing without a trace. Instead, the generals tried to laugh them off as "the crazy ladies of May Square". "We were crazy - crazy with pain, with rage, with powerlessness," says Almeida, whose dyed chestnut hair and fiery eyes belie her 86 years. But "we transformed that rage into love, into a peaceful struggle," she tells AFP.

Almeida's son Alejandro disappeared on June 17, 1975, in the run-up to the coup. A 20-year-old medical student, he was also a member of the People's Revolutionary Army, a leftist guerrilla group. He was one of 30,000 people "disappeared" by the regime or right-wing death squads in the 1970s and 1980s. — AFP



BUENOS AIRES: Members of the Argentine human rights group "Madres de Plaza de Mayo" take part in the weekly march at the Plaza de Mayo square on April 20, 2017. — AFP



CARACAS: Opposition activists clash with riot police during a protest against President Nicolas Maduro on Wednesday. — AFP

VENEZUELA SNUBS REGIONAL POWERS AS MORE PEOPLE DIE

CARACAS QUILTS OAS IN ANGER OVER PRESSURE

CARACAS: Venezuela says it is quitting the Organization of American States in anger at pressure from the bloc over the government's handling of a deadly political crisis. The announcement late Wednesday raised international tension over Venezuela, where unrest has left 28 people dead this month. Echoed by the United States and European Union, the OAS has led an international chorus of concern over the economic and political chaos in the major oil-exporting country.

Bristling at the pressure, Venezuelan Foreign Minister Delcy Rodriguez said late Wednesday the government would launch a two-year process to pull out of the Washington-based regional diplomatic grouping. On Thursday, "we will present a letter of complaint to the OAS and we will begin a process that will take 24 months," she said in a televised address. She branded the OAS an "interventionist coalition" led by Washington.

Democracy concerns

OAS Secretary General Luis Almagro has dubbed Venezuela's Socialist President Nicolas Maduro a "dictator" for stifling the opposition. On Wednesday, the permanent council of the 35-nation OAS agreed to hold a meeting of their foreign ministers to discuss the crisis - a decision Venezuela had forewarned would prompt it to exit. The OAS has voiced concern about the state of democracy in Venezuela, where Maduro is resisting

opposition pressure to remove him from office. So far this month, 28 people have been killed in anti-government protests that have erupted into clashes with riot police, the attorney general's department says. Venezuela has suffered an economic collapse fueled by a plunge in international prices for its crucial oil exports. Maduro says the shortages and the protests are part of a US-backed plot to topple him.

More protests

Opposition parliamentary leader Julio Borges told a news conference further street protests were planned for Thursday. He said lawmakers would hold a session on proposals to "rescue democracy" and then march to where one of the latest casualties died in eastern Caracas. That fatality occurred Wednesday, as security forces elsewhere fired tear gas, water cannon and plastic bullets to stop protesters advancing into central Caracas. Protesters threw stones and petrol bombs. Children were evacuated from a school to escape tear gas, with teachers holding handkerchiefs over the pupils' faces. Maduro supporters staged a counter-rally. "We are mobilized for the revolution and for our president," said one of his supporters, Freddy Gutierrez. "We call on the opposition to leave the path of violence." Maduro himself appeared on television at an unrelated youth event where he called for music and dancing. — AFP

TRANS BRAZILIANS LEARN TO FIGHT BACK

RIO DE JANEIRO: Next time someone tries bullying Brazilian student Maira just because she's transgender, they may get a nasty - and painful - surprise. Maira, 23, is one of the newest students in a group of transgender and transsexual Brazilians and other sexual minorities taking lessons in the brutal Israeli martial art of krav maga. They say it's about protecting themselves and no longer putting up with the kind of abuse that is common in Latin America's biggest country.

"I feel unsafe all the time. At any moment someone can throw stones at me or attack me from behind for no reason," said Maira, who like other students in the group calling itself the Piranhas Team, did not want to give her last name. Krav maga, which was developed for the Israeli military, is a way for people like Maira to even the odds. Combining judo, boxing and just about every other martial art, krav maga emphasizes real world situations and encourages ruthlessness, including turning everyday objects into weapons.

At the gym in Rio's trendy Lapa district, the more experienced participants wore kimonos, warming up with sit-ups and push-ups, while more recent arrivals wore shorts and T-shirts. "Come on, move!" shouted the instructor, a young bearded man in a kimono with a blue belt. Watching the action, with bodies slamming onto the tatami, Maira hesitated. She was just going to watch for now, but she knows how badly she needs to start learning. According to Transgender Europe, a non-governmental organization, Brazil is one of the deadliest countries for trans people, with 900 killed between 2008 and 2016 - close to half of the 2,264 deaths recorded across the entire world. — AFP



RIO DE JANEIRO: "Piranha Team" members participate in a krav maga self-defense technique class on April 18, 2017. — AFP

TSAI: CALL WITH TRUMP CAN TAKE PLACE AGAIN

TAIPEI: Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen said another direct phone call with US President Donald Trump could take place again and she urged the self-ruled island's political rival China to step up to its global responsibility to keep the peace as a large nation. "We have the opportunity to communicate more directly with the US government," Tsai told Reuters in an exclusive interview yesterday. "We don't exclude the opportunity to call President Trump himself, but it depends on the needs of the situation and the US government's consideration of regional affairs."

The interview was the first since Trump, as US President-elect, took a congratulatory phone call from Tsai in early December. It was the first contact between a leader of Taiwan and an incumbent or incoming US president in nearly four decades and Trump cast doubt on Washington's long-standing policy of acknowledging Beijing's "one China" policy,

which claims Taiwan is a part of China. The call angered Beijing because it forbids contact between government heads and Taiwan's leader, for fear of such contacts would confer sovereignty on the island. Democratic Taiwan, self-ruled since 1949, has no interest in being ruled by autocratic China. However, Trump agreed to honor the "one China" policy in February and then hosted Chinese President Xi Jinping at his Florida resort earlier this month.

F-35 Request

Despite this, Tsai said Taiwan's ties with the United States have been improving. She said Taiwan may need to buy from its sole arms supplier the most advanced stealth jet in the US arsenal. "We don't rule out any items that would be meaningful to our defense and our defense strategy and the F-35 is one such item," said Tsai, in the first remarks by a top

Taiwanese official on the matter. Taiwan will eventually have to submit a weapons purchase list during talks with Washington. Tsai said, however, senior officials were not yet in place in the Trump administration to handle the issue. China's Defense Ministry said yesterday it was resolutely opposed to any country selling arms to Taiwan. Ministry spokesman Yang Yujun made the comment at a monthly news briefing in Beijing when asked about the possible sale of F-35 fighter jets from the United States to Taiwan. Speaking from the Presidential Office as she nears her first year anniversary in office, Tsai urged Xi to act like a leader. Beijing has never renounced the use of force to bring the island under its control, and froze official communication channels with Taipei soon after Tsai and her independence-leaning party took power. Tsai has said she wants to maintain peace with China, but that her government won't bow to pressure from China. — Reuters

N KOREA SEEKS SE ASIAN SUPPORT IN ROW WITH US

LETTER APPEARS TO BE HIGHLY UNUSUAL MOVE

MANILA: North Korea has appealed to Southeast Asian countries for support in its row with the United States to prevent what it warned could be a "nuclear holocaust", according to a letter obtained by AFP. In the letter to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' secretary general, North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong-Ho warned the situation on the Korean Peninsula was "reaching the brink of war" because of Washington's actions. He urged the ASEAN chief to inform the 10-nation organization's foreign ministers "about the grave situation" on the peninsula "and give them a proper proposal", while criticizing at length US-South Korean military exercises.

Tensions have soared in the region in recent weeks in the wake of a series of North Korean missile tests and tough rhetoric from Washington on the isolated nation's rogue weapons program. A copy of the North's letter, dated March 23, was obtained by AFP yesterday ahead of an ASEAN leaders' summit in Manila where they are expected to discuss the situation on the peninsula. "I express my expectations that ASEAN which attaches great importance to the regional peace and stability will make an issue of the US-South Korean joint military exercises at ASEAN conferences from the fair position and play an active role in safeguarding the peace and safety of Korean Peninsula," the letter said.

North Korea is known to have close ties with some ASEAN members, including Cambodia and Laos. However ASEAN has in the past spoken out against North Korea's nuclear ambitions. A statement released at the end of an ASEAN leaders' summit in Laos last year expressed "serious concern" over North Korea's nuclear testing and called on it to abide by relevant UN Security Council resolutions meant to curtail its atomic program.

Unusual move

Ri's letter appeared to be a highly unusual move. A Southeast Asian diplomat said that, as far as he could recall, it



SEOUL: A South Korean protester holds up a placard opposing a plan to deploy the advanced US THAAD missile defense system near US Embassy yesterday. — AP

was the first time North Korea had written a letter seeking ASEAN's help on the issue. It comes after Pyongyang's diplomatic ties with ASEAN member Malaysia were

seriously damaged with the assassination in Kuala Lumpur in February of Kim Jong-Nam, the estranged half-brother of North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un. — AFP

CHINA WELCOMES US TONE ON N KOREA

BEIJING/SEOUL: China yesterday welcomed an apparently softer tone by the United States on the North Korean nuclear and missile crisis but stressed its opposition to a US missile defense system being deployed in South Korea. China has long promoted dialogue to resolve the "Korean nuclear issue" as North Korea has repeatedly threatened to destroy the United States which in turn has warned that "all options are on the table" in ending North Korean provocations.

The Trump administration said on Wednesday it aimed to push North Korea into dismantling its nuclear and missile programs, which are in violation of UN Security Council resolutions, through tougher international sanctions and diplomatic pressure. "The United States seeks stability and the peaceful denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. We remain open to negotiations towards that goal.

However, we remain prepared to defend ourselves and our allies," it said in a statement.

Asked about the US comments, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said China had noted that many US officials had recently made such remarks. "We have noted these expressions, and have noted the message conveyed in these expressions hoping to resolve the Korean nuclear issue peacefully through dialogue and consultation," he said. "We believe this message is positive and should be affirmed." South Korea and the United States agreed on Thursday on "swift punitive measures" against North Korea in the event of further provocation. The South also said the deployment of a US anti-missile defence system was moving ahead effectively a day after angry protests against the battery and fierce opposition from China. — Reuters

DUTERTE: POINTLESS DISCUSSING S CHINA SEA WOES AT SUMMIT

MANILA: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said yesterday it was pointless discussing Beijing's contentious activities in the South China Sea at this week's Southeast Asian summit, and no one dared to pressure China anyway. The no-nonsense former mayor scoffed at questions from reporters about whether China's rapid reclamation of uninhabited reefs or enforcement of an international arbitration ruling last year would be brought up with leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on Saturday.

"Who will dare pressure?" he said. "Who can pressure China? Us?" Asked how ASEAN should deal with China, Duterte said dialogue was the only option. "The way we're doing, talking - that's the only luxury we have," he said. "Action? Tell us how. Tell me. Educate me how." The Philippines is hosting meetings of ASEAN this year. The bloc will adopt a softer than usual tone about South China Sea disputes and exclude references to militarization or island-building, according to a draft of the chairman's statement.

China claims most of the energy-rich South China Sea through which about \$5 trillion in ship-borne trade passes every year. Neighbors Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam also have claims. The Philippines' chairing of ASEAN comes amid a charm offensive by Duterte, who has opted to court China for its business and investment and avoid rows over sovereignty that dogged his predecessors. Duterte has been accused by critics of taking a defeatist position on China and on defending Philippine sovereignty. He considers his approach is pragmatic and says challenging China risks triggering a war.

The previous government in 2013 filed a case with the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague to set the record straight on maritime boundaries. The tribunal did that last year, and invalidated China's claim to sovereignty over most of the South China Sea. Duterte, who has put the ruling on the back burner and said he will revisit it later in his term, said it was a waste of time for ASEAN to discuss that award now, and it was not relevant. — Reuters



MANILA: Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah (right) of Brunei and Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte chat as they walk for their bilateral meeting following welcoming ceremony for the sultan yesterday at Malacanang Palace. — AP



PHUKET: Jiranuch Trirat, 22, stands in front of the coffin of her slain 11-month-old daughter Natalie at a temple yesterday. — AFP

MOTHER SAW DAUGHTER'S FACEBOOK LIVE MURDER

PHUKET: The distraught Thai mother of a baby girl killed by her boyfriend in a murder he broadcast on Facebook Live has described the harrowing moment she stumbled across the video and rushed to alert police. The killing on Monday evening caused revulsion both in Thailand and around the world, sparking renewed debate about what can be done by social media giants to more quickly remove live broadcasts of violent crimes, suicides and murders.

Jiranuch Trirat, a 22-year-old from Phuket, was left devastated after her boyfriend Wuttisan Wongtalay hanged their 11-month old daughter Natalie from the side of an abandoned building before taking his own life. He broadcast Natalie's murder on Facebook Live, a video that Jiranuch came across that evening. "I was with my older brother and he was logging onto his Facebook," she told AFP on Thursday from a Phuket temple where daily prayers were being held for Natalie ahead of her cremation on Saturday.

"He was scrolling down and suddenly we saw the live broadcast. I turned to take a look and saw him (Wuttisan) drop my daughter with the rope and I couldn't continue to watch." The horrifying realization of what was unfolding sparked a desperate search by relatives and police, with the bodies of Wuttisan and Natalie found just a few hours later. The murder video remained on Facebook for around 24 hours, prompting cries for the social network to move more swiftly to take down clips of grisly crimes and killings. — AFP

POLICE ARREST NINE MORE DEMOCRACY ACTIVISTS IN HK

HONG KONG: Nine democracy protesters were arrested in Hong Kong yesterday over an anti-Beijing rally in the latest swoop by police as activists say they are being persecuted. Concerns are growing that the semi-autonomous city's freedoms are under threat from Beijing, fuelling calls from some groups for greater autonomy or even a complete split from China. Pro-independence activists Yau Wai-ching and Baggio Leung were arrested and charged Wednesday over causing chaos in the legislature after being barred from taking up their seats as lawmakers last year.

And last month nine pro-democracy activists - including student protesters and lawmakers - were charged for their roles in mass 2014 pro-democracy Umbrella Movement rallies. The spate of arrests come ahead of an expected visit by China's President Xi Jinping to mark the 20th anniversary of the handover of the city by Britain back to China in 1997 on July 1. "I believe the police have set out to arrest all street activists so they won't dare to protest when Xi Jinping visits," pro-democracy leader Joshua Wong told AFP.

Nine protesters were arrested Thursday over their participation in a rally in November against China's decision to intervene in the row over whether to disqualify Yau and Baggio. That protest outside China's liaison office in Hong Kong saw scuffles as demonstrators charged barriers and police used pepper spray to drive them back. The rally was triggered after Beijing announced it would make a special interpretation of Hong Kong's constitution to determine whether Yau and Baggio should be prevented from taking up their seats after staging an anti-China protest during their oath-taking. Beijing's final ruling, two days after the rally, effectively ensured the pair were barred. — AFP

IN MUSLIM INDONESIA, TINY JEWISH COMMUNITY LIVES ON

COMMUNITY FEELS SAFE TO PRACTICE OPENLY

TONDANO, Indonesia: In a remote corner of the Indonesian archipelago, a modest synagogue stands in a tiny Jewish community that has found acceptance despite rising intolerance in the world's most populous Muslim-majority country. The red-roofed building on Sulawesi island is the only synagogue in the nation of 255 million people. Here, unlike other parts of the country, the Jewish community feels safe to practice their faith openly.

"We can wear the kippah (Jewish skullcap) in the mall or anywhere we want, it's not a problem," Yobby Hattie Ensel, a Jewish leader from the nearby city of Manado told AFP. In Tondano, the "Shaar Hasyamayim" synagogue sits close to several churches and residents of different religions live, work, and worship alongside each other without incident. Indonesia has long been praised for its moderate, inclusive brand of Islam - and this enclave of diversity is a testament to that.

But across the archipelago, intolerance has risen in recent years as more conservative forms of Islam have become popular, driven by increasingly vocal hardline groups. Tensions in the Middle East, particularly between Israel and the Palestinians, spill over here and deepen religious divides. Outside the safe haven on Sulawesi, those who refuse to hide their faith have faced hostility.

Yaakov Baruch, an Orthodox Jew who runs the Tondano synagogue, revealed how he was threatened with death in a Jakarta busy mall as he walked along with his pregnant wife. "From a few floors up, they shouted at me 'Crazy Jew,'" he told AFP, adding the group of men then ran towards him and demanded he remove his skullcap. "They said to me: 'We don't want you to use your kippah in this country. If you continue to use it, we'll kill you.'" In 2013, the country's only other synagogue in the city of Surabaya was demolished. It had been the site of anti-Israel protests for years, and was sealed off by hardliners in 2009 and left to decay.

Secret worship

Indonesian rabbi Benjamin Verbrugge concedes any flare-up of tensions in the Middle East provokes hostility towards the local faithful. "Problems between Israelis and Palestinians are a liability for me - when someone is stabbed there, it makes me uneasy here," he said. Faced with such open hostility, the Jews in the capital worship in secret. Last month Verbrugge, head of the United Indonesian Jewish Community (UIJC), held celebrations for the festival of Purim, traditionally one of the most joyous days in Judaism's calendar, hidden in a small hotel room with a handful of fellow worshippers.

The UIJC estimate there are around 200 practicing the faith in the country, believed to be the descendants of traders from Europe and Iraq who came to Asia to trade. The organisation was set up to bring the nation's Jews together. The Jewish population in Indonesia is believed to have peaked at around 3,000 in the years before World War II, according to Rotem Kowner, a professor from

the University of Haifa in Israel. The fact that those remaining are scattered across the archipelago means Verbrugge has to defy rules that forbid Jews from using electrical gadgets on the Sabbath to lead group prayers online via the LINE messaging app. The small community also faces more practical challenges, such as the fact kosher food is not widely available in Indonesia, said Phinechas, a local convert to Judaism. "I try my best to be a good Jew but I can't manage it 100 per cent," he added.

Increasing intolerance

Faith-based tension has been mounting in Indonesia, undermining its pluralist reputation. Christian churches and mosques where Muslim minorities pray

have been closed due to pressure from hardliners. Shiites and Ahmadis - regarded as heretics by some Sunnis - have been forced from their homes in mob attacks and on occasion even killed. Successive governments have been criticized for failing to tackle the radicals for fear of being accused of attacking Islam.

Due to their small number and the fact most live in the shadows, the nation's Jews have not been a major focus of radical Islamic anger in Indonesia and have largely escaped the serious attacks directed at other minorities. But having a low profile also brings problems. According to the law, freedom of worship is guaranteed for all religions, including Judaism, but in practice Jews cannot be honest about their faith. —AFP



TONDANO, Indonesia: This photograph taken on Feb 17, 2017 shows Indonesian Rabbi Yaakov Baruch (right) speaking to a member of the Jewish community at a synagogue in North Sulawesi. — AFP

RED BULL HEIR THREATENED WITH ARREST AFTER NO-SHOW

BANGKOK: Thai prosecutors vowed yesterday to seek the first arrest warrant for the heir to the Red Bull fortune after he dodged the latest summons to hear charges over a 2012 hit-and-run in his Ferrari that left a policeman dead. The threat comes after years of public anger over the lack of progress in a case that critics say highlights the impunity enjoyed by Thailand's wealthy and well-connected. Worayuth Yoovidhya, whose nickname is "Boss", was 27 when he allegedly smashed his Ferrari into a police officer in the early hours of the morning, dragging the body for several hundred metres before fleeing the scene of the crash.

The scion, whose billionaire father is Thailand's fourth-richest man, has never showed up for a formal indictment, allowing some of the charges against him to expire. After Worayuth missed the latest summons yesterday, prosecutors promised to request an arrest warrant from the Thai courts, a step which until now has never been taken despite his previous no-shows. "If the suspect doesn't show up by 4 pm today, tomorrow we will send a

letter to Thonglor police station to ask the court for an arrest warrant immediately," Prayut Bejraguna, a spokesman for the Attorney-General's office, told reporters.

Prosecutors said they would also explore extraditing Worayuth, who has paraded his flashy lifestyle on social media over the years with frequent trips overseas. His lawyer has previously said Worayuth was on business in the UK and unable to return to Bangkok. "If our (extradition) request fails we can ask UK police to renew the case while we support them with details," said Amnat Chotchai, the head of the Attorney-General's foreign division.

Prosecutors faced a barrage of press questions about why the case had dragged on for so long. They denied Worayuth's family wealth had an impact. "This has nothing to do with rich or poor," Attorney-General spokesman Prayut said. "We will provide justice for everyone involved." A trail of debris from the accident led police to the Bangkok mansion of the princeling's super-rich clan, who own half of the Red Bull energy drink empire. — AFP

PROTESTER, THREE SOLDIERS KILLED IN KASHMIR

SRINAGAR: Troops in Indian-administered Kashmir yesterday opened fire on a crowd of demonstrators outside an army garrison where militants earlier killed three soldiers, hitting one civilian who later died. Police said the soldiers fired on a crowd of protesters who threw rocks at an army jeep as it emerged from the barracks, hitting a 40-year-old man. "In response they fired and injured a man. He later died," the inspector general of police for the region Javid Gillani told AFP.

Police had earlier fired tear gas and live bullets into the air to try to break up demonstrations after what one officer called "intense clashes". The violence followed a pre-dawn assault on the garrison in Kupwara district, near the de-facto border known as the Line of Control that divides Kashmir between India and Pakistan. Army spokesman Rajesh Kalia said two attackers had been killed and search operations were in progress to see if there were any more still

in the area. Police said paramilitary reinforcements were being sent to the area, where demonstrators shouted slogans such as "We want freedom, and 'Go India, go back'". Incidences of civilian unrest following army operations against militants in Indian Kashmir have been rising, in what many analysts see as a sign of growing resentment in the disputed region. Roughly 500,000 Indian soldiers are deployed in Kashmir, which has been divided between India and Pakistan since the end of British rule in 1947. Both claim the territory in its entirety.

Anti-India sentiment runs deep in the Kashmir valley, one of the world's most heavily militarized spots where most people favor independence or a merger with mainly Muslim Pakistan. Clashes between rebels and government forces have become more frequent since the killing of a popular rebel leader, Burhan Wani, by Indian security forces last July which sparked widespread unrest. — AFP



PANZGAM: An Indian security personnel aims a pellet gun towards Kashmiri protesters during a clash between Indian government forces and Kashmiri villagers near the site of a gun battle in this village in Kupwara, north of Srinagar, yesterday. — AFP

MUSLIM WOMEN FIGHT FAMILY, TRADITION FOR PROPERTY RIGHTS

LOCAL CUSTOMS DETERMINE INHERITANCE RIGHTS

LUCKNOW: Shabana was 18 years old when she was married to a man 15 years her senior, in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh. It wasn't long before he began beating her. Worried for her safety and that of her two young kids, Shabana begged her eldest brother to let her return to her parental home, where he now lived. He refused, saying her place was with her husband, and that she had no right over the home. The home was claimed by her brothers. Under Islamic law, Shabana and her two sisters were also entitled to a share of the property, but they were not aware of it.

"My father had said he would leave me a share, but he did not leave a will, and I did not know I had a right," said Shabana, who asked that her last name not be used as she fears reprisal from her husband, who has refused a divorce. "I thought I would have to live on the streets," she said, wiping off tears in the small beauty salon she runs to support herself and her children.

It wasn't until Shabana approached a local women's group, Association for Advocacy and Legal Initiatives (AALI), that she gained the knowledge - and the courage - to ask for her share. It took four years of mediation by AALI before her brother allowed her to move into the house with her kids, she said. Other Muslim women in the country are less fortunate. Muslims are India's largest religious minority, making up more than 13 percent of the 1.2 billion population.

They are among the most excluded and marginalized communities, with social indicators such as education and employment lower than the national average. In matters of inheritance, marriage, family and divorce, Muslims are governed by their personal law, or the shariat. According to India's Shariat Act, women are entitled to half the man's share of property, but the rule does not apply to agricultural land. Some states have made provisions in their law to allow Muslim women to inherit land as well.

Patriarchy Rules

Despite the law, it is local customs and traditions that determine inheritance rights for Muslim women across India. The customary laws are largely patriarchal and do not favor women. "Challenging inheritance rights means challenging the patriarchy, challenging the very notions of family and relationships," said Niti Saxena, an advisor at AALI who has studied Muslim women's property rights in Uttar Pradesh.

Fathers and sons are not willing to give married women a share of the parental property because they believe she belongs to the husband's family, and that she has already been compensated with a dowry at the time of her marriage, she said. "The women, even if aware of their rights, are afraid that claiming their share will spoil their relations with the family. So they do not make a claim unless they are desperate - usually in the case of abuse or a divorce." — Reuters

CHINA BANS LIST OF ISLAMIC NAMES IN RESTIVE XINJIANG

BEIJING: Authorities in China's Xinjiang region are prohibiting parents from giving children some Islamic names in the latest effort to dilute the influence of religion on life in the ethnic Uighur minority heartland. "Muhammad", "Jihad" and "Islam" are among at least 29 names now banned in the heavily Muslim region, according to a list distributed by overseas Uighur activists.

An official at a county-level public security office in Kashgar, a hub in southern Xinjiang with strong Islamic influences, says some names were banned because they had a "religious background." It is unclear how widespread the ban is or whether it is tightly enforced. The official refused to identify herself, as is common with Chinese officials.

The naming restrictions are part of a broader government effort to secularize Xinjiang, which is home to roughly 10 million Uighurs, a Turkic people who mostly follow Sunni Islam. Top officials including Xinjiang's Communist Party chief have publicly said that radical Islamic thought has infiltrated the region from Central Asia, protracting a bloody, yearslong insurgency that has claimed hundreds of lives.

Government-linked scholars and high-ranking officials, including Chinese President Xi Jinping, have urged local governments to better assimilate their Muslim minorities into the majority Han Chinese culture, and many ethnic policy hardliners have decried a trend of so-called "Arabization" affecting China's 21 million Muslims.

Aside from the prohibition on Islamic names, local Xinjiang officials have, at times, strongly discouraged or prohibited Islamic veils, while government-linked commentators have called for bans of mosques with domes or other Middle Eastern architectural styles. Uighur activists and human rights groups say that radical thought had never gained widespread traction, but restrictions on religious expression are fueling a cycle of radicalization and violence.

The names listed on the government document disseminated by Uighur groups include several related to historic religious or political figures and some place names. "Imam," "Hajj," "Turknaz," "Azhar" and "Wahhab" are on the list, as are "Saddam," "Arafat," "Medina" and "Cairo."

Judgment calls about which names are deemed to be "overly religious" will be made by local government officials, according to Radio Free Asia, the US-funded radio service which first reported the naming directive. For instance, "Mehmet," the widely seen Turkic version of "Muhammad," is considered "mainstream" in Xinjiang and would likely be permitted, RFA reported.

Dilxat Raxit, a spokesman for the overseas World Uighur Congress activist group, called the naming directive a policy bearing a "hostile attitude" toward Uighurs. "Han parents choosing Western names are considered trendy but Uighurs have to accept Chinese regulations or else be accused of being separatists or terrorists," Raxit said. — AP

TRIBUTES FOR TREKKER LOST IN NEPAL

KATHMANDU: A Taiwanese trekker is recovering in hospital after rescuers found him and his dead girlfriend on a mountainside in Nepal where they were stranded for 47 days, surviving on only water and salt after their food ran out. Liu Chen-chun, 18, died just three days before the rescue team located the couple in northwest Nepal, but her boyfriend managed to survive despite losing 30 kilos during the ordeal.

A severely malnourished Liang Sheng-yueh, 20, was being treated in hospital in Kathmandu, where he was airlifted after being rescued from the remote region. Rescuers said the pair followed a river downstream in the hope of finding a village after getting lost. But they became stuck when they reached the edge of a waterfall and were unable climb back up.

"They had a drop of about 100 metres on one side and a steep uphill on the other. They were trapped," said Madhav Basnet who found them. Speaking haltingly and in broken English as he sipped hot soup, Liang told AFP on Wednesday it had been "very cold" on the mountain, and difficult to sleep. Basnet said that it was snowing heavily in the region when the couple reached the cliff and they had to shelter under a rock because they couldn't put up their tent on the uneven ground. — AFP



KATHMANDU: Taiwanese trekker Liang Sheng-yueh, who was rescued alive after being stranded in the Himalayas for 47 days, talks with a Nepalese doctor at a hospital yesterday. — AFP

Friday Times

FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 2017

Lifestyle

www.kuwaittimes.net

In this April 18, 2017 photo, a model wears bridal fashion from the Reem Acra collection in New York. —AP

**Traditional, classic moments
at Bridal Fashion Week**



Celebrity chef Wolfgang Puck, center, poses with his wife Gelila, from left, and sons Oliver, Cameron, Alexander and Byron at a ceremony honoring him with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, Wednesday, April 26, 2017, in Los Angeles. — AP

YouTube announces music competition series for emerging acts



In this combination photo, Jason Derulo, left, and Demi Lovato appear at the iHeartRadio Music Awards on March 5, 2017, in Inglewood, Calif. — AP

YouTube is launching a new music competition series for emerging artists featuring Backstreet Boys, Demi Lovato and Jason Derulo. Ryan Seacrest Productions and Endemol Shine North America announced Wednesday that “Best.Cover.Ever” will debut on YouTube later this year. Ludacris will host the series, where pop stars will give budding artists a chance to perform a cover of one of their songs. The winner will perform a duet version of the song with the star, which will debut on YouTube. Fans can submit videos through May 19 for the first phase. The songs include Backstreet Boys’ “As Long As You Love Me,” Lovato’s “Confident” and Derulo’s “Trumpets.” Additional artist-participants will be announced at a later date. — AP

Veteran Bollywood actor Khanna dies aged 70

Accclaimed Indian actor Vinod Khanna, who starred in dozens of hit Bollywood movies including “Amar Akbar Anthony” and “Mere Apne”, died aged 70 from cancer yesterday, a Mumbai hospital said. Tributes poured in from the world of Hindi cinema for the award-winning actor, who was lauded for his roles playing angry young man in the 1970s. Khanna was also an MP in the northern state of Punjab. “Veteran actor and Member of Parliament Mr Vinod Khanna, who was admitted to the Sir HN Reliance Foundation Hospital breathed his last at 11.20 am due to advanced bladder carcinoma,” it said.

Khanna made his acting debut in 1968 in “Man Ka Meet” but is best remembered for his performances in “Mera Gaon Mera Desh”, “Mere Apne”, “Achanak” and “Amar Akbar Anthony”, where he appeared alongside superstars Amitabh Bachchan and Rishi Kapoor. “Remembering the good times with you, Vinod. Thank you for being my friend,” Kapoor wrote on Twitter. “#VinodKhanna will always remain the coolest and most good looking actor to grace the Indian screens. The industry has lost a legend today,” tweeted actor Varun Dhawan. Actor Akshay Kumar posted: “Sad to learn about the passing away of #VinodKhanna Sir, one of the most charismatic actors...truly end of an era. Condolences to the family.” — AFP



In this May 20, 2014, file photo, former Indian politician and Bollywood actor Vinod Khanna, right, and Indian film actor turned politician Shatrughan Sinha pose for cameras as they arrive for the BJP parliamentary party meeting in New Delhi, India. — AP

Film festival spotlights racism in France

Alexandre Amiel was alarmed when his 11-year-old son asked the day after the attacks on Charlie Hebdo magazine and a Jewish supermarket in Paris: “Why do they hate us?” The veteran filmmaker’s answer is an unflinching exploration of racism in France at a time when the nationalist politics of presidential candidate Marine Le Pen have become part of the political mainstream, and racially-motivated attacks are on the rise. “Why Do They Hate Us?” (“Pourquoi nous détestent-ils?”), which gets its US premiere on Sunday as part of the Colcoa festival of French film in Los Angeles, is a documentary with a difference.

Like a non-fiction version of Mathieu Kassovitz’s groundbreaking 1995 movie “La Haine,” Amiel’s three part documentary is told from his own perspective as a Jew but also through the eyes of a black man and Arab woman. “We did three stories with people who are not especially victims of racism, but are going to take the audience by the hand and bring them a narration with two sides,” says Amiel, 43. “First, it’s your own story and then it’s an investigation of what racism is today.”

Part one was made by Lucien Jean-Baptiste, whose comedy “La premiere etoile” (2009) was nominated for best first film at the Cesars, France’s equivalent of the Oscars. The filmmaker, who has Caribbean roots, investigates how blacks are represented in French society with right wing radio host Henry de Lesquen, who wants to ban what he calls “negro music.”

‘Purge’

In part two, comedian Amelle Chahbi, who is of Moroccan descent, looks at the Maghrebian community in Paris to see if integration is working, and confronts a fascist at a march. She asks the activist how he would keep Muslim numbers down and he replies, chillingly: “We need a president leading France who is a real nationalist, who will carry out a purge.” In part three Amiel meets Jerome Bourbon, the publisher of anti-Semitic newspaper Rivarol, who asserts, matter-of-factly: “Before, when we were a Catholic country, we wouldn’t have had a Jew at the table.”

Amiel—a “cultural but not practicing Jew” and a highly-regarded former TV reporter—originally made “Why Do They Hate Us?” as a trilogy of television documentaries shown in France last year. Clips of the filmmakers’ exchanges with extremists were viewed online nearly 20 million times, prompting their theatrical release



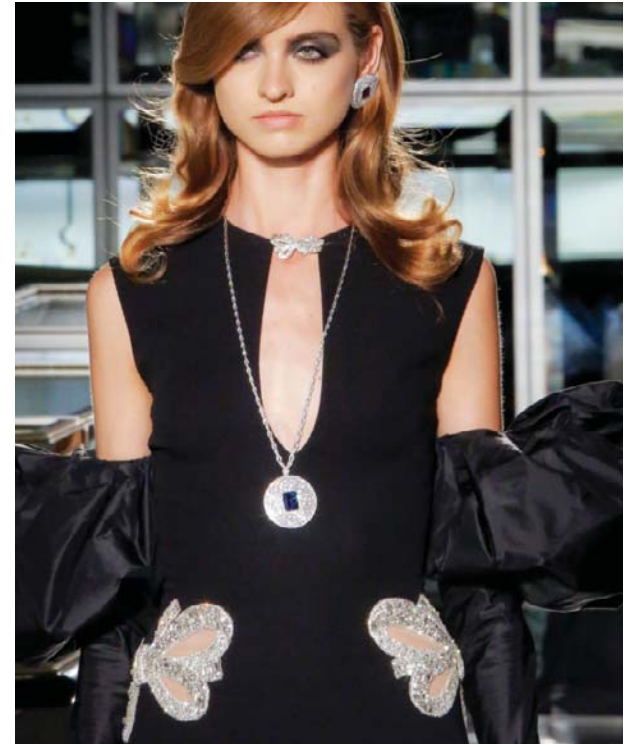
Directors Jon Amiel (left) and Alexandre Amiel attend Colcoa French Film Festival day 3 on April 26, 2017, in Los Angeles, California. — AFP

as one two-hour movie. France’s National Human Rights Commission, which produces an annual report on racism, found last year that attitudes to immigration have been softening since the dark days of the global financial crisis.

Half of French nationals claimed not to be remotely racist compared with 43 percent in 2014, while just eight percent believed that some races were superior to others. But these surveyed attitudes fly in the face of a darker reality—that hate crimes against minorities are rocketing, up 22.4 percent in just one year to 2,034 incidents in 2015, with anti-Muslim hate crimes more than doubling.

‘Outsider’

Meanwhile French Jews, the largest community outside of the United States and Israel, have been fleeing at a steady pace since the mid-2000s. Anti-Semitic hate acts actually fell slightly from 2014 to 2015, but Jews are still the target of more than 20 percent of France’s total incidents despite making up less than one percent of the population. On Sunday it had emerged that pro-European centrist and self-proclaimed political “outsider” Emmanuel Macron would stand against the Front National’s Le Pen in a run-off for the French presidency, with the mainstream parties dealt a historic snub.



Bridal fashion from the Reem Acra collection is modeled in New York. — AP photos

TRADITIONAL, CLASSIC MOMENTS AT BRIDAL FASHION WEEK



For some designers, Bridal Fashion Week meant a turn to modern yet classic dresses with plenty of options in sleeves, necklines and silhouettes.

Some highlights:

Monique Lhuillier

She had it all in stretch satin that hugged the body and full tulle skirts with ruffles and folds that fluttered down her runway in a rehearsal room at Carnegie Hall. Some of Lhuillier's brides wore lacy tulle gloves with rings on top and others walked in webs of pearls that cascaded over their shoulders and halfway down their backs. There was romantic drama, but enough to please just about every bride in whites with a touch of latte and cappuccino shades done in organza and floral embroidery, Chantilly lace and illusion effects.

Lhuillier showed little bolero jackets and a variety of necklines, from plunging to sweetheart. Some sleeves were caps, other lacy and long. She dropped some waists and offered plenty of long trains both embellished and left alone. One sleeveless tulle A-line gown was embellished with flower petals. Another of her creations came in white silk adorned with Chantilly lace, with a sweetheart neck and a natural waist that led to a full ball gown. "For spring '18, you're going to see tradition, coming back to classic elegant designs," Lhuillier said in a backstage interview. "I really wanted to embrace a tradition of a wedding."

Ines Di Santo

Never shy about going her own way, Di Santo went for simplicity this time around. Ever influenced by her Italian and Latin roots, she showed classic looks paired with high, braided hair sculpture. She, too, stuck to the whites with a single, elegant pop of bright red that fell to a perfect squared off train. She finished some backs with covered buttons and box-pleat trains. Floral embellishment was hand-painted on a lingerie-strap gown with a sweetheart neck and an A-line skirt. A halter ball gown with an illusion neck had intricate tiers of ruffles on the skirt and a cathedral-style train. Another halter came in the cut of a trumpet gown with a corseted bodice and an asymmetrical pleated skirt and an exaggerated bow at the back.

Plunging necklines were abundant, including one on a

long-sleeve coat with bows worn with a slip dress that had a front slit. "We started very clean, then we go a little bit more with details but only where you need it. I wanted to be traditional in a modern way," she said backstage. "The most important thing to remember is the elegance of a woman." Her red look evoked a flamenco dancer, from her model's dark braided hair sculpted into a basket shape, accompanied by red flowers, to the sexy neckline that hugged the body before it erupted into dramatic pleats at the thigh, with a flourish of pleats at the back. "I went with red on the lips, I went with red on the dress. I love red," Di Santo said.





Fashion designer Reem Acra acknowledges applause after showing her bridal collection at Tiffany & Co. flagship store in New York.



Marchesa

Think of Castle Howard, a prominent brick-walled English garden, and you've got a sense of the Marchesa bride for spring. Ruffle bows and flower detailing was shown on open-back gowns and dropped-waist bodices. Silver beaded threadwork and pearl embroidery were layered over Chantilly lace underlays and delicate illusion tulle. Designers Keren Craig and Georgina Chapman relied on the English rose garden at Mottisfont for their lower-price Notte collection with floor-sweeping gowns in creamy ivory. Beading and threadwork atop tulle was reminiscent of blooming florals wrapped around the garden's wooden posts and vine-covered pergolas, according to the show's notes.

The two have loads of red carpet moments on the backs of celebrities, but brides are different. "People are, like, how is it when someone wears your gown at the Oscars," Craig said in an interview. "What's really incredible to me is when someone shows me a picture of a bride who has chosen to wear Marchesa for their wedding day, who has entrusted us with that moment. It really makes us proud. We get sent photos on Instagram and I really treasure those." The two

also stuck mostly to white, with little black touches in belts and elsewhere. "We did feel that things are going a little more white, a little more ivory" Chapman said. "Still sheer and light feeling but less of the nude. We've seen that nudeness for a long time."



The Marchesa bridal collection is presented during bridal fashion week.



Reem Acra
She celebrated her 20th year in business in style with a collection inspired by Tiffany jewels. Acra showed her gowns at Tiffany & Co.'s flagship store on Fifth Avenue. Some models sauntered out of elevators to walk a winding path among the store's shelves in looks inspired by Tiffany's signature blue jewelry box. Acra spent time in the jewelry company's studio to sketch her dresses inspired by the Tiffany diamond and other gemstones and signature Tiffany designs.
Her finale look was strapless and white in satin with a full skirt. Attached were actual Tiffany pieces, from diamond drop earrings to dragonfly brooches. The jewels, she said, were returned to Tiffany. Another nod to the iconic company came in a ball gown styled in Tiffany blue, embellished with glittery yellow gold, worn with a full veil with the same shade in accents. Acra incorporated the classic Tiffany bow design in encrusted jewels on a sleek, black sleeveless gown worn with long black gloves. It was one of several gowns in black for her Tiffany brides. Flirty black bows adorned the fronts and waists of white looks. Strings of diamonds fell from the shoulder of one black gown that fell just below the knee.
Acra sculpted bodices to reflect intricate platinum metalwork in Tiffany jewelry and showed touches of the blush tones found in the gemstones morganite and kunzite for a touch of color among the traditional whites and blacks. "Tiffany is a luxury stamp of quality, of fashion, of being on top of the game," Acra said of her moment with the company. "We understand each other. For brides, their moment is something that lasts forever, just like a Tiffany diamond." — AP

The Ines Di Santo bridal collection is modeled during bridal fashion week.



The Monique Lhuillier bridal collection is modeled during bridal fashion week.

Who says pasta must be unhealthy? It doesn't with these tips

Melissa D'arabian

Ask my husband what his favorite comfort food is and the answer will be quick: Pasta. Who doesn't love a steamy bowl of noodles or macaroni slathered in butter and cheese? It's a classic, born straight out of childhood mac and cheese days, morphed into a late night college study-session standby. As adults, we decide to eat healthier, and it almost seems like our loyal noodle friend gets tossed aside, as if there were no way to include pasta in a healthy diet. Well, I'm here with good news: Pasta can be part of a healthy diet, and I have a few tips to help keep things both comforting and nutritious.

First: Read the labels, because not all pastas are created equal. Look for whole grain pasta, which usually translate into more protein and fiber, which makes your meal more filling. So instead of 2 full ounces, which is the standard pasta serving size, you might be looking at leftovers.

If you are feeling extra ambitious, you can even seek out some pasta versions that are made from beans and legumes. Next tip is to minimize fat by using starchy pasta water for saucy silkiness ó just scoop out some water with a measuring cup before draining the pasta. Saute up some veggies and aromatics in just a smidge of olive oil, and use the pasta water to add the saucy vibe. Adding veggies to the pasta will bulk it up, add nutrients and make the pasta prettier.

My go-to is frozen spinach ó I always have a bag in my freezer so it's an easy way to get some pretty green in pasta. You could saute it up with the aromatics and olive, or in weeknight rush, toss the frozen spinach right into the boiling pasta just before draining in to cook it there. My final tip: try lemon zest instead of part or all of the parmesan cheese. The zest adds an aromatic depth that somehow makes the nutty parmesan cheese less pronounced if missing. Note that when I use my lemon zest trick, I swap out classic basil and use fresh thyme instead ó it's a marriage made in heaven.

PENNE WITH GARLIC TOMATOES, LEMON ZEST AND SPINACH

Ingredients

Servings: 6

Start to finish: 20 minutes

12 ounces whole grain penne pasta
1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil
3 cloves garlic, minced
1/8 teaspoon red pepper flakes
2 cups grape tomatoes, washed and thoroughly dried
6 ounces chopped frozen spinach, thawed, excess moisture squeezed out
1 tablespoon fresh chopped thyme
2 tablespoons lemon zest

Lemons for squeezing, optional
Salt and pepper

Preparation

Cook the pasta according to package directions, reserving about ½ cup of starchy pasta water before draining. While pasta is cooking: Place the olive oil, garlic and red pepper flakes in a ramekin, and mix with a spoon, gently pressing the garlic into

the oil. Place the garlic oil in an unheated deep saute pan, and turn the burner on medium heat. As the oil heats, it will become fragrant. As soon as the oil is warm and smells of garlic, add the tomatoes, and cook until they are coated with garlic oil and they barely begin to soften, about 3 minutes. Add the spinach and cook, stirring for 3 minutes. Increase the temperature to medium high, and add the cooked pasta and about half the starchy water. Stir, and let simmer for 1 minute. Add extra water if needed. Add the thyme, lemon zest and salt and pepper to taste. Serve with lemons for squeezing (optional).



COOKING ON DEADLINE:

Grilled Provencal Chicken and Peppers

By Katie Workman

I know some readers of this column grill year-round. Some of you because you live in temperate climates, where winter just means putting on a light jacket to throw some burgers on, and some of you because you are die-hard grilling machines, who would chisel the ice off your charcoal briquettes to light a fire outdoors.

I fall into neither camp, though I am enough of a grilling buff that as soon as the weather seems remotely cooperative, I grab those tongs and send my husband, Gary, out to fill up the propane tank (and yes, I know that for you hard-core grillers,

the fact that I'm not using charcoal or hardwood makes me a pretender at best. But there's a jolly, ample expanse between culinary perfection and everyday dinners, and I like to wander about freely in that open space). If the weather isn't cooperating, or if you are a city dweller, those nice grill pans, or even a panini press, can be called into service.

Anyway, other than a nice soak in a lemony marinade, this chicken and pepper dish requires only a handful of ingredients, little skill and a small commitment of time by the fire. The result is colorful and gorgeous and flavorful and very healthful to boot. Serve with rice or any grains you are into at the moment. It's a nice way to get both you and your grill reacquainted.

**Ingredients**

Start to finish: 7 hours (6 hours of marinating time)
Serves 6

2 pounds boneless, skinless chicken breasts
2 red bell peppers
2 yellow bell peppers
1/2 cup fresh lemon juice
1/2 cup olive oil
1/4 cup minced shallots
2 tablespoons fresh thyme leaves
1/4 cup chopped black olives, like kalamata
2 teaspoons Sriracha sauce, or to taste

Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
Fresh thyme sprigs to serve

Preparation

Trim the chicken breasts and use a large sharp knife to cut them into three pieces, about 2 inches wide each. If the chicken breasts are very thick, cut each of the pieces in half horizontally, so you have two thinner, small cutlets from each piece. Cut the bell peppers into 2-inch pieces, and discard the stem and seeds. In a large container or zipper top bag, combine the lemon juice, olive oil, shallots, thyme, black olives, sriracha, and salt and pepper.

Add the chicken and peppers to the marinade, making sure

the marinade coats all of the ingredients. Cover and marinate for 6 to 12 hours in the refrigerator. Bring the chicken and peppers to room temperature while you heat the grill to medium high. Remove the chicken and peppers from the marinade, and discard the marinade. Grill the chicken and the peppers for 4 or 5 minutes on each side, until nicely browned and cooked through. Serve the chicken and peppers hot or at room temperature, with the thyme sprigs tucked in. — AP

5 reasons to check out



By Aakash Bakaya

Since its official release little less than two years ago, Blizzard's premier MOBA 'Heroes of the Storm' has been on a hard but bountiful road. It appeared quite late into the MOBA scene, years after 'League of Legends', 'DOTA 2' and 'Smite' carved their own niche space and created their own communities. With such immensely popular competition, 'Heroes of the Storm' (HOTS) faced an uphill battle from the get-go. Early reception from general audiences was solid but MOBA fans shunned the game for heavily differentiating itself. This made HOTS a popular but unimportant black sheep of both the hardcore competitive gamers as well as the e-sport circuit.

In a fashion typical of the iconic developer, Blizzard persisted by dedicating an even larger team towards the game's future development right after its release. What followed were numerous major in-game events, huge e-sport pushes on ESPN and Twitch and an obsessive-like dedication towards new hero releases and content which have kept both casual and hardcore fans hooked.

This Tuesday saw HOTS take another massive step into proving its legitimacy with the release of 'Heroes of the Storm 2.0'. A self-titled second release for the game, it brings in a ton of features for both new and old players so there's quite some ground to cover. Let's charge right in -

1. New progression system, new rewards

The biggest change coming with 2.0 is the overhaul to the game's loot and cosmetic system. From the very beginning, HOTS kept its micro-transactions clean and un-intrusive. You only earned a single currency which was used to unlock heroes and progression skins. Other epic and legendary skins as well as mounts and EXP boosts were kept behind a direct pay wall. If you saw a skin you liked, the price ranged from 5-10\$. This meant that there were no extra currencies to keep track off - just the item and the money you needed to buy it. It was a refreshing system especially for a free to play game but many new players resented the fact that there was no other

way of getting a skin without using real money.

With 2.0, all that changes. Now you are able to obtain skins, heroes along with announcer packs, banners and sprays (the latter three are newly added to the game) and a whole lot more from the new loot box system. These loot boxes are given to you after every hero level which is also revamped to be more frequent and worthwhile. There are more currencies with the inclusion of gems and shards but if you've played a mobile or any other free-to-play game in the last 7 years, you should be accustomed to the system pretty easily. It's an infinitely more rewarding system, one that is catered to getting new players a massive load of content right from the start. But that's not all that's in store for new players.

2. Mega Bundles are mega deals

Whether you've been playing HOTS since its early alpha days or simply wanting to check what the fuss is all about after reading this - you will be given a choice of up to 4 Mega Bundles from the very moment you open the game. These bundles contain 20 heroes each and are catered to suit a variety of play styles. It's an amazing deal to get 20 characters in any MOBA but to get them for absolutely free is unheard of until now. The bundle lists might seem a bit straight-forward at first but the heroes within them are anything but that.

3. Best of Blizzard

Even if MOBAs as a genre never interested you, playing as some of Blizzard's most iconic characters is sure to have some appeal. From the Lord of Terror Diablo to Kerrigan the Queen of Blades, HOTS manages to create the fantasy of controlling these characters in an extensive battlefield into a gaming reality. With over 50 characters and counting, it may not boast the sheer numbers of LOL and DOTA but the commitments taken to not only separate them from characters in other MOBAs but to also make them stay true to their original lore is superb. The fact that they could take Tracer from 'Overwatch', a character from a first-person shooter and make her a unique and versatile addition to the roster as well is a testament to the wonderful dedication the HOTS team as put into the game.

4. New spin on an old genre

MOBA's have been around since the early 2000's and its mechanics have surprisingly stayed pretty much the same



The unique talent system in HOTS makes heroes like Varian a blast to play



Tracer flawlessly mixes mechanics of both first-person shooters and MOBAs



Ragnaros in his Molten Core form is a sight to behold

since then. A single massive map, tower pushing, camping, solo laners vs junglers - these terms and mechanics have been staples of the genre since its inception. But instead of following the crowd, HOTS takes those concepts and tosses them away. With the addition of the new 'Overwatch' map added with 2.0, HOTS now has a total of 13 objective-based maps. They all might play differently but the emphasis on teamwork persists throughout. None of the varied and powerful map objectives are doable without the help of your team and this makes team compositions and co-ordination so much more important. These points are further highlighted with the Talent system for characters.

Instead of your traditional item store, your character is instead equipped with distinct talents that you select every three levels. Not only does this help in doing away with a needlessly complex (and dare I say archaic) laundry list of

items, it also amplifies the fantasy of playing your hero. It's equally fun and strategic to decide whether your Varian, based on the warrior class from 'World of Warcraft', wants to build for a more 'tank-like' approach, a quick and in your face fury build or become a burst damage engager. All three of these approaches are accurately inspired by his class from 'WoW' and its transition to a MOBA is simply brilliant.

5. The perfect time to enter the Nexus

MOBAs have always been a daunting mountain to look at from its base while getting into any multiplayer game with little to no experience is a time-consuming exercise in patience and perseverance. 2.0 is an attempt to change that. With continuous rewards, front-loaded progression and the Mega Bundles - 2.0's main goal is clearly aimed towards brand new players to try out the game. Whether you're

going up against MOBA veterans or teaming up with brand new recruits - HOTS 2.0 is balanced to be as appealing as ever before to new players. Even the recent nerf to Valeera, a stealth assassin with heavy burst damage (aka a noob nightmare) is clear evidence that Blizzard is not taking any chances the new incoming players.

HOTS emphasise on shared experience, regular team fights, shorter match times and a heavier focus on team rather than individual skill all makes for one of the most unique MOBA experiences in the market today. After a long, stressful day at work, few things can beat jumping into a quick game of HOTS and kicking ass with your favourite characters from Blizzard's extensive franchises. It's a game I've been playing since its release and one that I look forward to enjoying for many more matches to come. Hopefully, the Nexus is able to lure you in as well.



Friday Times

FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 2017

Travel



Sun, sand and
centuries of
history in
Pafos

'Sol Alter' statue
by Yiota
Ioannidou on
public display in
Pafos



The remains of the Hrysopolitissa Basilica in Pafos

There's more to Pafos than the beach. The ancient Greeks certainly knew that, which is why they founded their sacred city well inland, overlooking the sparkling Med from the headland at Kouklia. Modern Pafos, sitting pretty beside the sea, is a relative newcomer, dating back a measly 2400 years.

The majority of travelers to Pafos today are lured by sea, sand and sun, and Cyprus certainly gets a lot of sun - 326 sparkling, sunshiny days per year, on average. But on this island you can't walk more than a few paces in any direction without tripping over an ancient ruin or real-life setting for a Hellenic myth. And Pafos is no Agia Napa or Protaras - this is a proper Mediterranean city, down to the veg-stacked grocers' shops and courtyards full of potted geraniums.

Cultured Pafos

With more than 3000 years of uninterrupted history, Pafos was an obvious candidate for the European City of Culture 2017. Performers have been gathering on the stage of its ancient odeon (amphitheatre) since at least the 2nd century BC, and the cult of fertility worship has been active in these thyme-scented hills since Neolithic times. It was no accident that the ancient Greeks chose this stretch of coast as the birthplace of Aphrodite, goddess of love.

Every July and August, dramas by Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides, Aristophanes and others get the full amphitheatre treatment in the Pafos odeon for the International Festival of Ancient Greek Drama (greekdramafest.com), while opera takes centre stage in Pafos castle every September during the Aphrodite Festival (pafc.com.cy). In 2017, the culture goes into overdrive, with art exhibitions, public performances and classical concerts amidst the ancient stones of the city's myriad archaeological sites. Visit the Pafos 2017 (pafos2017.eu) website for a full program of events.

A tale of two cities

The Greek tradition of splitting towns in two dates back to at least 500 BC, when Herodotus and Plato wrote of cities divided into parallel

communities - a kato ('below') part on the coast, and an ano ('upper') part inland. In an ancient Mediterranean teeming with the battleships of squabbling empires, it made sense to have somewhere to flee to in the hills, and in Cyprus the tradition is still very much alive.

When most visitors talk about Pafos, what they actually mean is Kato Pafos, sprawling around a sandstone harbor guarded by a Byzantine castle, beside a string of beaches that have become a favorite spot for British sun-seekers. Ano Pafos, or Ktima, 16km inland,

is where locals prefer to live, enjoying the cooler climate at this higher elevation, and the peace and quiet away from the beach bars and touristy tavernas.

At beach level, Kato Pafos is the classic Med, complete with sun umbrellas and all-day



Ancient mosaics at the Pafos Archaeological Site



**Aphrodite's
Rock and Bay
in Cyprus**

breakfast cafes, but you don't have to wander far to find ancient history. The rocky headland to the north of the harbor is one big historical adventure playground. The ruins scattered across the Pafos Archaeological Site were once the capital of Cyprus, before an earthquake toppled the columns and cracked the arches in the 4th century.

Myriad magnificent mosaics

Pafos' archaeological ruins serve up a full hand of Greco-Roman treasures - arcades of columns, thermal baths, an ancient amphitheatre - but the main attraction here is underfoot. The undisputed highlight of the site is the House of Dionysus, a Roman villa whose lavish mosaics could have graced the front

cover of the AD 200 edition of *Ideal Home*. The elaborate floor decorations cover everything from the changing seasons to depictions of Dionysus, rambunctious god of wine, and neighbouring villas have mosaics of Poseidon, Achilles and Theseus and the Minotaur.

A short wander east from the archaeological zone, the Hrysopolitissa Basilica was constructed at the height of the city's power, before tremors and Arab pirates reduced ancient Pafos to rubble. The current church sits on just a tiny part of the vast area covered by the original basilica which, like many churches in Cyprus, has Bible credentials. One of the columns in the grounds was allegedly used for the torture of the apostle Paul,

whose resilience to persecution inspired the Roman governor to convert to Christianity.

If the rulers of ancient Pafos lived well, they died in luxury. Around 2km north of the Kato Pafos archaeological site, the Tombs of the Kings were hollowed out over six centuries to accommodate the highfliers of the ancient city on their final journey to the afterlife. Carved into a rocky outcrop, these handsome mausoleums followed the Egyptian tradition of making tombs as grand as the homes of the living, with vast atriums ringed by colonnades and carved niches that could accommodate whole families. Warm, dry winds rustle across the site, which is charmingly overgrown and often overlooked by the package tour groups.

Meeting Aphrodite

Since time immemorial, visitors to Cyprus have been obsessed with Aphrodite, and the ancient Greek goddess of love is eternally associated with Pafos. According to which Greek scribe you believe, this mighty madam was born either from the union of Zeus and Dione, or from foam on the sea after Uranus, the god of the sky, lost his manhood to the scythe of Cronus. The location of this miraculous conception has been mapped to the shoreline east of Pafos at Petra tou Romiou, where a marble sea stack rises dramatically from the sea beside a lonely pebble beach.

It's an undeniably pretty spot, but you may get a better feel for the cult of Aphrodite at Kouklia, site of the original Greek settlement at Pafos. Set in a handsome Lusignan mansion, the Palaipafos Museum (mcw.gov.cy) marks the site of the original Sanctuary of Aphrodite, one of the most important pilgrimage centres in the ancient world. It takes a bit of imagination to make sense of the scattered ruins, but the displays inside are a good primer on the cult of Aphrodite.

To get even closer to the goddess of love, cross the isthmus to Polis on the far side of the Akamas Peninsula. Just beyond the town limits, a walking trail winds between carob trees and clumps of wild thyme to the Baths of Aphrodite, a hidden spring where the goddess is said to have bathed under the lustful eyes of Adonis, god of beauty and desire.

Time for one more meze

Finish your journey into Cypriot culture back in Ktima, at the quintessentially Mediterranean Kiniras Garden Restaurant. Set in the tree-shaded atrium of a traditional stone townhouse, this family-run affair is a proud member of the Vakhis scheme, established to preserve traditional Cypriot recipes and island cooking know-how. Surrounded by statues and water features, you can sample such delights as zalatina, traditional Cypriot head cheese with spiced pig trotters, preserved in aspic.

Downhill in Kato Pafos, you can try a similarly authentic Cypriot menu at Hondros, just meters from the Kato Pafos Archaeological Site. Here, the dish everyone is drooling over is ofto kleftiko (lamb in the well, or thief's kebab) - a shoulder or leg of lamb, slow-cooked with lemon juice and cinnamon in a clay oven until the meat slides tantalizingly off the bone. Drawing influences from Greek, Roman and Ottoman empires, this is Pafos' history on a platter. (www.lonelyplanet.com)



**A harbor side
restaurant in
Kato Pafos**



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Some sort of temporary obstacle may appear. This may be one of those days when it is best to just play it cool. Discrimination is in knowing the realistic choices. Practice asking yourself if an idea or concept is realistic. The control you have over your own life now will help you to perceive realities correctly. Your personality takes on more power now, particularly when you are involved with creative activities. If you have not been involved in creative work lately, make a real effort to begin a project soon; planning is good. When you enjoy having created something from your own inventiveness, you can be successful in your other endeavors. You communicate well in most anything you do. Good luck is in your corner this evening.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Too many moves create in you the desire to become permanently organized and ready for anything that comes your way. The last thing you want is to slow yourself down from moving forward. The study and use of numerology could create some positive changes for you; you will feel more powerful and enjoy the rewards as well. You are probably able to find lost items, uncover the real meaning of problems, discover the thief, etc. This type of talent would put you in good, not only as a detective, but also as a team or group leader. This is your year for success but the energies are not necessarily going to do the work for you; you have to do the footwork. Good health and travel are within reach. Tonight is for fun and friends.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You may be surprised today by a compliment or by some recognition for a recent accomplishment. Perhaps you expected a little attention but you may have some recent kind act or achievement mentioned in the community newspaper. You are feeling good! Your slow and steady work behind the scenes proves profitable. There is a focused concentration now to work with and learn a new technology until you become an expert on the subject. Adaptability and clever talk will achieve great results for you. You are lucky in love and money today but do not overextend your good fortune-know when to walk away. You and your loved one can enjoy time together this evening doing something totally different from your usual evening activity.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Your way of explaining things is helpful as there is some new equipment, technology or method with which all must learn to work. You may be upstaging someone else-pay attention to this possibility and back off when necessary. You may feel that you are in touch and in harmony with others and the lines of communication are open. You can expect a little boost from those around you. You could find that you are appreciated for your ability to organize and accomplish things in a quick manner. You may want to encourage a carpool effort in order to save on gas. You may offer to draw up a plan. This may get a sluggish response but will probably be considered eventually. There is a relationship that may generate heat this evening.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Quick answers, great wit and a bounty of insights and solutions are available now. This combination works and is what it takes for a good round table discussion. This may happen before work or just as work begins. Many people have their own opinions about how a certain project should run and this includes you as well. This is a good time to suggest that a paragraph from each person might cause less confusion. You may go about gathering this information for the higher-ups to consider. This is a good time to write and communicate with real originality. Inventions and breakthroughs are possible. This may be a period of great mental activity and heightened communication with others. One of your secret goals is very close to a completion.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You are able to persuade others to invest their time in a project. Everyone seems motivated to work toward a praiseworthy end result. Looking at the overall picture is a talent very few can achieve and you are able to do this with a vision that belongs to no other. Clear decisions affecting others could be made now. Somehow you need to find a balance between your sense of duty to others and your sense of duty to yourself. In fulfilling your own deepest dreams and desires you will be happier throughout each day. In serving yourself you are more fit, able and ready to help others. Patience will seem easier as a result of taking care of your own needs. This evening is a better time to grant favors to a loved one. This will make everyone happy.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Relax your need to be in total control this day. A meeting room holds many different personalities within the room or around a conference table. A proposal made by you or someone else may have to be carefully studied before any action is required. Difficulties, blocks and all manner of hot spots can be understood and eliminated at this time. There is much communication with others, and the communication gives you an opportunity to insert some positive points regarding a particular proposal. You help to lighten other people's thinking. You have inspiration for a new goal, and this time is positive for negotiations and contracts of any type. Verbal deals are good and have many possibilities. You are able to make a positive difference.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Someone pays you compliments before you even punch the time clock today. Perhaps you have new clothes. You may enjoy talking about what your company produces or the job that you do. This ability to express yourself could enhance your professional outlook. There may be opportunities to speak in front of the public instead of co-workers and customers that are in the store. You will soon learn to be more confident when you speak, and you may find yourself conducting meetings and conventions regarding new and better technical or scientific equipment. You may enjoy being with a group of friends this afternoon and find yourself involved in several conversations in which you persuade others to see your point of view.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Your duties in the workplace may change today. You are encouraged to teach others and may want to give some thought as to how you can continue some new activity and be paid for it. You may be surprised at the results. Better pay and future advancements have been waiting for you and all you may need to do is ask; you have the talents that others need. Real estate comes to your attention today, and this could mean repairs as well as the availability of any sales. Consider the family before making any decisions. Some organizational skills are needed around the household and you may be surprised to find a young person with those skills. You should make it a point to be around family members this evening and find fun ways that will bring them together.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Others will find you quick-minded and full of enthusiasm. Your comprehension of issues is broadened and you have a positive attitude. Your creativeness is unique and you could come up with new solutions. The judgments you make are good and will lead to positive outcomes in whatever you choose to do this day. Be careful of sensitive responses that you might feel like expressing this afternoon. Compromise should be considered. Engaging in serious conversations may create a healing between you and a sibling or close relative. Don't be afraid to open up to a close friend. You may find yourself feeling private and in a stay-at-home mood this evening. This is a perfect time to spend with loved ones and family.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Let go of a losing situation. Someone close to you is difficult. Sometimes you just have to let someone wiggle in his or her own time period. There is a lot of energy behind your work this morning and much can be accomplished. You make quick and wise decisions that gain the attention of higher-ups. Faith in yourself and your future is emphasized as you begin a new path. A feeling that anything is possible leads to new ventures. At its best, this is a very positive and optimistic time in your life, but at times, overconfidence can create problems. Do not burn your bridges behind you! This is a good time to consolidate and organize your affairs-busy yourself with bill paying, chores, etc. An old friend will enjoy hearing your voice this evening.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

There are indications that today will be extremely busy. Communicating with friends and colleagues should be direct and to the point. Say what you mean and leave it at that. There is plenty of energy for you to work with today. This is a good day to solve problems and make important decisions. You will find a way around most obstacles and are in control and able to guide yourself with ease. Your sense of inner direction is good and should lead to opportunities. A sociable, congenial, slightly frivolous orientation sets in as you talk and plan some future event with a friend. A little yard work or nurturing of flowers and then a visit to a nearby park may be in order this afternoon. If you look closely enough, you might see a rabbit.

COUNTRY CODES

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



00:20 Street Outlaws
01:10 What On Earth?
02:00 Sydney Harbour
02:50 The Wheel: Survival Games
03:40 Fast N' Loud
04:30 Storage Hunters UK
05:00 How Do They Do It?
05:30 How Do They Do It?
06:00 World's Top 5
06:50 You Have Been Warned
07:40 Gold Rush: Parker's Trail
08:30 What On Earth?
09:20 Idris Elba: No Limits
10:10 The Wheel: Survival Games
11:00 Running Wild With Bear Grylls
11:50 Guy Martin: Wall Of Death
12:40 Supertruckers
13:30 Wheeler Dealers
14:20 Diesel Brothers
15:10 Harley And The Davidsons
16:00 Running Wild With Bear Grylls
16:50 Running Wild With Bear Grylls
17:40 Running Wild With Bear Grylls
18:30 Running Wild With Bear Grylls
19:20 Running Wild With Bear Grylls
21:00 Wheeler Dealers
21:50 Diesel Brothers
22:40 Harley And The Davidsons
23:30 Supertruckers



00:00 The First 48
01:00 The Jail: 60 Days In
02:30 Homicide Hunter
03:30 Cold Case Files
04:30 The Jail: 60 Days In
06:00 My Crazy Ex
07:00 My Crazy Ex
08:00 Evil Up Close
09:00 It Takes A Killer
10:00 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence
11:00 The First 48
13:00 My Crazy Ex
14:00 Evil Up Close
15:00 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence
16:00 It Takes A Killer
17:00 The First 48
19:00 Evil Up Close
20:00 Gangs Of Britain With Gary And Martin Kemp
21:00 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence



00:30 Redesign My Brain
01:20 Bad Universe
02:10 Raging Nature
03:00 Destroyed In Seconds
03:50 Beyond Survival With Les Stroud
04:40 How It's Made
05:30 Strangest Weather On Earth
06:20 Mythbusters
07:00 Doki
07:25 Kids vs Film
07:50 Bad Dog
08:40 How It's Made
09:05 How It's Made
09:30 Redesign My Brain
10:20 Mythbusters
11:10 Bad Dog
12:00 Beyond Survival With Les Stroud
12:50 How It's Made
13:15 How It's Made
13:40 Strangest Weather On Earth
14:30 Doki
14:55 Kids vs Film
15:20 Mythbusters
16:10 Redesign My Brain
17:00 Battle Bots
17:50 Don't Blink
18:40 Destroyed In Seconds
19:30 How It's Made
20:20 Mythbusters
21:10 Battle Bots
22:00 Don't Blink
22:25 Don't Blink
22:50 Destroyed In Seconds
23:15 Destroyed In Seconds
23:40 Beyond Survival With Les Stroud



00:00 Binny And The Ghost
00:25 Hank Zipzer
00:45 The Hive
00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:40 Hank Zipzer
02:05 Binny And The Ghost
02:55 Hank Zipzer
03:15 The Hive
03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
04:10 Hank Zipzer
04:35 Binny And The Ghost
05:25 Hank Zipzer
05:45 The Hive
05:50 The 7D
06:00 Jessie
06:50 Tsum Tsum Shorts
06:55 The Zhuzhus
07:20 Elena Of Avalor
07:45 Bizaardvark
08:35 Stuck In The Middle
09:25 Austin & Ally
10:15 Alex & Co.
10:40 Cheetah Girls 2
12:10 Welcome To The Ronks
12:20 Girl Meets World
13:10 Best Friends Whenever
14:00 Bunk'd
14:50 Sunny Bunnies
14:55 The Zhuzhus
15:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
15:45 Elena Of Avalor
16:10 Liv And Maddie
16:35 Descendants Wicked World
16:40 The Swap

18:25 Alex & Co.
18:50 Jessie
19:15 Tsum Tsum Shorts
19:20 Backstage
19:45 Austin & Ally
20:10 The Next Step
20:35 Cracked
20:40 Disney The Lodge
21:05 Girl Meets World
21:30 That's So Raven
21:55 Star Darlings
22:00 Good Luck Charlie
22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:10 Hank Zipzer
23:35 Binny And The Ghost



00:00 Henry Hugglemonster
00:15 Calimero
00:30 Art Attack
00:55 Zou
01:05 Loopdidoo
01:20 Henry Hugglemonster
01:35 Calimero
01:50 Zou
02:05 Art Attack
02:30 The Hive
02:40 Loopdidoo
02:55 Henry Hugglemonster
03:10 Art Attack
03:35 Loopdidoo
03:50 Calimero
04:05 Art Attack
04:30 Henry Hugglemonster
04:45 Zou
05:00 Art Attack
05:30 Henry Hugglemonster
05:45 Loopdidoo
06:00 Zou

06:15 Calimero
06:30 Loopdidoo
06:45 Henry Hugglemonster
07:00 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
07:25 Sofia The First
07:50 The Lion Guard
08:15 PJ Masks
08:40 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
09:05 Goldie & Bear
09:30 Minnie's Bow-Toons
09:35 The Lion Guard
10:00 Sofia The First
10:30 Doc McStuffins
10:55 Miles From Tomorrow
11:20 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
11:50 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
12:15 Gummi Bears
12:40 Miles From Tomorrow
13:10 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
13:35 PJ Masks
14:00 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
14:30 The Lion Guard
15:00 Sofia The First
15:30 Doc McStuffins
15:55 Goldie & Bear
16:20 Miles From Tomorrow
16:50 PJ Masks
17:15 Sofia The First
17:40 Doc McStuffins
18:05 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
18:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
19:00 The Lion Guard
19:25 The Lion Guard
19:50 Doc McStuffins
20:05 Goldie & Bear
20:35 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
21:00 Gummi Bears
21:30 Miles From Tomorrow
22:00 Doc McStuffins
22:25 Doc McStuffins
22:55 PJ Masks



06:00 Gravity Falls
06:25 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
06:50 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
07:15 Milo Murphy's Law
07:25 The 7D
07:40 Supa Strikas
08:05 Two More Eggs
08:10 K.C. Undercover
08:35 Counterfeit Cat
09:00 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
09:25 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
09:50 Future-Worm!
10:15 Two More Eggs
10:20 Pair Of Kings
10:45 Pair Of Kings
11:10 Danger Mouse
11:35 Supa Strikas
12:00 Supa Strikas
12:30 Gravity Falls
12:55 Annedroids
13:20 Zeke And Luther
13:45 Zeke And Luther
14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
14:15 Zeke And Luther
14:40 Zeke And Luther
15:05 Bolt
16:35 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
16:50 Walk The Prank
17:15 Mech-X4
17:40 Milo Murphy's Law
18:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
18:10 Gravity Falls
18:35 Mighty Med
19:00 Atomic Puppet
19:25 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
19:55 K.C. Undercover
20:20 Mech-X4
20:45 Mighty Med
21:10 Walk The Prank
21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
21:45 Marvel's Avengers: Ultron Revolution
22:10 Ultimate Spider-Man
22:35 Boyster



00:05 Mariah's World
00:55 Mariah's World
01:50 E! News
02:50 Celebrity Style Story
03:20 Celebrity Style Story
03:50 WAGs
04:40 WAGs
05:30 Celebrity Style Story
06:00 La Clippers Dance Squad
06:55 E! News
07:10 La Clippers Dance Squad
08:10 E! News
09:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
12:00 E! News
12:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
15:00 E! News
15:15 Botched
19:00 E! News
20:00 So Cosmo
21:00 So Cosmo
22:00 So Cosmo
23:00 E! News
23:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians



00:10 The Chase
01:00 Emmerdale
01:30 Coronation Street
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 Guess This House
03:25 Paul O'Grady's Animal Orphans
04:20 5 Star Family Reunion
05:15 Come Date With Me Australia
06:10 The Chase
07:05 Guess This House
08:00 Paul O'Grady's Animal Orphans
09:00 5 Star Family Reunion
10:00 Come Date With Me Australia
10:55 The Chase
11:50 Guess This House
12:45 Emmerdale
13:15 Emmerdale
13:45 Coronation Street

14:15 The Chase
15:10 Guess This House
16:00 It's Not Rocket Science
16:55 Surprise Surprise
17:50 Come Date With Me Australia
18:20 Come Date With Me Australia
18:45 Emmerdale
19:15 Emmerdale
19:45 Coronation Street
20:10 Guess This House



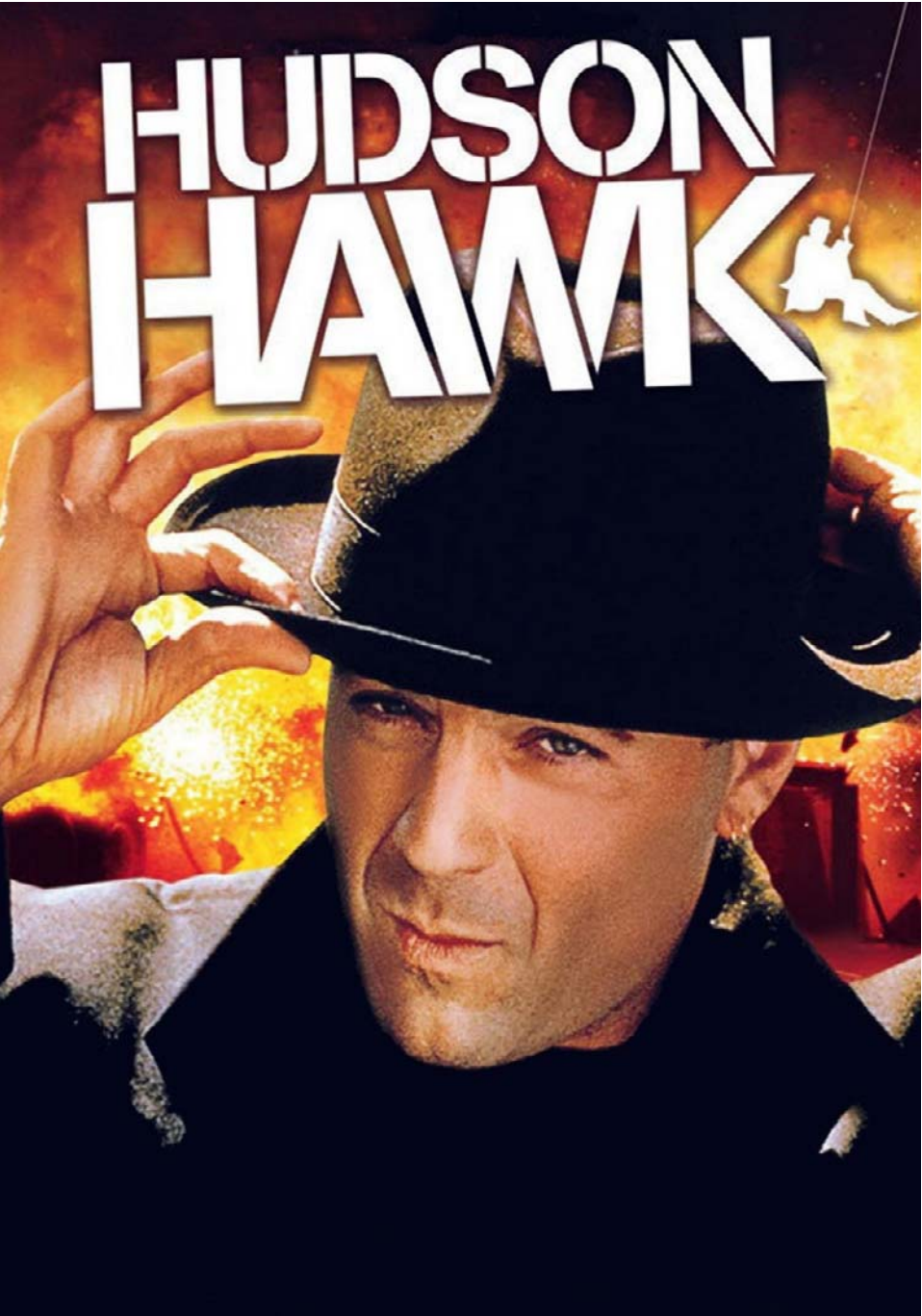
00:15 Access 360 World Heritage
01:05 What's For Sale?
01:30 Dog Whisperer
02:20 World's Best Beaches
03:10 Street Food Around The World
03:35 My Dubai
04:00 Andy And Ben Eat Australia
04:25 Andy And Ben Eat Australia
04:50 Lucky Chow
05:20 Hotel India
06:15 Living Free With Kimi Werner
07:10 What's For Sale?
07:35 Dog Whisperer
08:30 World's Best Beaches
09:25 Street Food Around The World
09:55 My Dubai
10:20 Andy And Ben Eat Australia
10:50 Andy And Ben Eat Australia
11:15 Lucky Chow
11:45 Hotel India
12:40 What's For Sale?
13:05 Dog Whisperer
14:00 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
14:55 Street Food Around The World
15:25 My Dubai
15:50 Andy And Ben Eat Australia
16:20 Andy And Ben Eat Australia
16:45 Lucky Chow
17:15 Hotel India
18:10 Living Free With Kimi Werner
19:05 Street Food Around The World
19:30 My Dubai
20:00 Andy And Ben Eat Australia
20:25 Andy And Ben Eat Australia
20:55 Lucky Chow
21:20 Hotel India
22:10 Living Free With Kimi Werner
23:00 What's For Sale?
23:25 Dog Whisperer



00:20 Tiger's Revenge
01:10 Built For The Kill
02:00 Crocs Of Katuma
02:50 Ultimate Animal Countdown
03:45 Asia's Deadliest Snakes
04:40 Man V. Monster
05:35 Crocs Of Katuma
06:30 Ultimate Animal Countdown
07:25 Asia's Deadliest Snakes
08:20 Man V. Monster
09:15 Snakes In The City
10:10 Nature's Greatest Talents
11:05 World's Deadliest Killers
12:00 Alien Crab
12:55 Turf War- Lions And Hippos
13:50 Animals Gone Wild
Compilations
14:45 Man V. Monster
15:40 The Lady With 700 Cats
16:35 Snakes In The City
17:30 Wild Indochina
18:25 World's Deadliest Killers
19:20 Man V. Monster
20:10 The Lady With 700 Cats
21:00 Snakes In The City



00:10 Origins: The Journey Of Humankind
01:00 Inside
02:00 Locked Up Abroad
03:00 Science Of Stupid
04:00 Origins: The Journey Of Humankind
05:00 Street Genius
05:30 Street Genius
06:00 Parched
07:00 Scam City
08:00 Cesar's Recruit: Asia
08:30 Danger Decoded
09:00 Street Genius
09:30 Street Genius
10:00 Locked Up Abroad
11:00 Uncensored With Michael Ware



HUDSON HAWK ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

12:00 China's Grand Canal: A Photographer's Journey
13:00 Parched
14:00 Cesar's Recruit: Asia
14:30 Danger Decoded
15:00 Scam City
16:00 Locked Up Abroad
17:00 Uncensored With Michael Ware
18:00 Underworld, Inc.
19:00 Scam City
20:00 Locked Up Abroad
20:50 Uncensored With Michael Ware



00:03 Max & Ruby
00:25 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
00:35 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
00:46 The Day Henry Met
00:51 The Day Henry Met
00:57 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:19 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:41 Zack & Quack
02:03 Team Umizoomi
02:25 Olive The Ostrich
02:30 Olive The Ostrich
02:35 Paw Patrol
02:58 Little Charmers
03:10 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
03:22 Dora The Explorer
03:44 Max & Ruby
04:07 Bubble Guppies
04:31 Shimmer And Shine
04:54 Dora And Friends: Into The City!
05:17 Zack & Quack
05:29 The Day Henry Met
05:34 The Day Henry Met
05:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
06:00 Rusty Rivets
06:13 Paw Patrol
06:37 Dora The Explorer
07:00 Zack & Quack
07:21 Dora And Friends
07:44 Blaze And The Monster Machines
08:07 Paw Patrol
08:30 Shimmer And Shine
08:53 Dora The Explorer
09:15 The Day Henry Met
09:22 Paw Patrol
09:45 Rusty Rivets
09:57 Bubble Guppies
10:20 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
10:40 Zack & Quack
10:52 Team Umizoomi
11:15 Team Umizoomi
11:38 Louie
11:45 Louie
11:53 Olive The Ostrich
11:58 Olive The Ostrich
12:03 Max & Ruby
12:26 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
12:36 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
12:47 The Day Henry Met
12:52 The Day Henry Met
12:57 Blaze And The Monster Machines
13:19 Blaze And The Monster Machines
13:41 Zack & Quack
14:03 Team Umizoomi
14:25 Olive The Ostrich
14:30 Olive The Ostrich
14:35 Paw Patrol
14:58 Little Charmers
15:10 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
15:22 Dora The Explorer
15:44 Max & Ruby
16:07 Bubble Guppies
16:31 Shimmer And Shine
16:54 Dora And Friends: Into The City!
17:17 Zack & Quack
17:29 The Day Henry Met
17:34 The Day Henry Met
17:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
18:00 Rusty Rivets
18:13 Paw Patrol
18:37 Dora The Explorer
19:00 Zack & Quack
19:21 Dora And Friends
19:44 Blaze And The Monster Machines
20:07 Paw Patrol
20:30 Shimmer And Shine
20:53 Dora The Explorer
21:15 The Day Henry Met
21:22 Paw Patrol
21:45 Rusty Rivets
21:57 Bubble Guppies
22:20 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
22:40 Zack & Quack
22:52 Team Umizoomi
23:15 Team Umizoomi



127 HOURS ON OSN MOVIES HD



01:15 Hudson Hawk
03:00 The Living Daylights
05:15 King Arthur
07:25 A View To A Kill
09:35 The Living Daylights
11:50 Road Wars
13:25 King Arthur
15:35 Hitting The Apex
18:00 Spooks: The Greater Good
19:45 Fast & Furious 7
22:15 Terminator Genisys



01:30 Pirates Of The Caribbean: Curse Of The Black Pearl
04:00 The Last Flight Of Noah's Ark
05:45 Herbie Fully Loaded
07:45 Home On The Range
09:00 Ratatouille
11:00 Herbie Fully Loaded
13:00 Up
15:00 The Tigger Movie
17:00 Hannah Montana Movie
19:00 Eight Below
21:00 White Fang
23:00 The Tigger Movie



00:30 Harley Davidson And The Marlboro Man
02:30 127 Hours
04:30 Beaches
07:00 Independence Day
09:30 Gulliver's Travels
11:15 127 Hours
13:15 Ghostbusters
15:15 War Of The Worlds
17:15 Sherlock Holmes
19:30 The Hurricane
22:00 Fifty Shades Of Grey



00:00 The D Train
02:00 Three Men And A Little Lady
04:00 Baby Mama
06:00 Father Of The Bride Part II
08:00 Three Men And A Little Lady
10:00 Baby Mama
12:00 Father Of The Bride Part II
14:00 National Security
16:00 Hanging Up
18:00 It Boy



00:00 Guernica
02:00 Get On Up
04:15 Trash
06:15 Searching For Bobby Fischer
08:15 Le Weekend
10:15 Young Ones
12:00 Get On Up
14:15 Words And Pictures
16:15 The Sting
18:30 Brooklyn
20:30 Spotlight
22:45 The Revenant



01:00 Bee Movie
02:45 Miffy The Movie
04:15 Harriet The Spy
06:00 Albert
07:30 Worms
09:00 Mune
10:45 Bee Movie
12:30 Miffy The Movie
14:00 Rugrats Go Wild
16:00 Mune
18:00 Sawva
20:00 When Marnie Was There
21:45 Rugrats Go Wild
23:15 Worms



00:30 How Do They Do It?
00:55 Food Factory
01:20 Food Factory USA
01:45 Food Factory USA
02:10 Eco-Tech
03:00 Prototype This
03:48 Mythbusters
04:36 How Do They Do It?
05:00 Food Factory
05:24 Food Factory USA
05:49 Food Factory USA
06:12 Eco-Tech
07:00 How Do They Do It?
07:26 Prototype This
08:14 Mythbusters
09:02 Ways To Save The Planet
09:50 How Do They Do It?
10:14 Food Factory
10:38 Strip The Cosmos
11:26 Prototype This
12:14 Mythbusters
13:02 How Do They Do It?

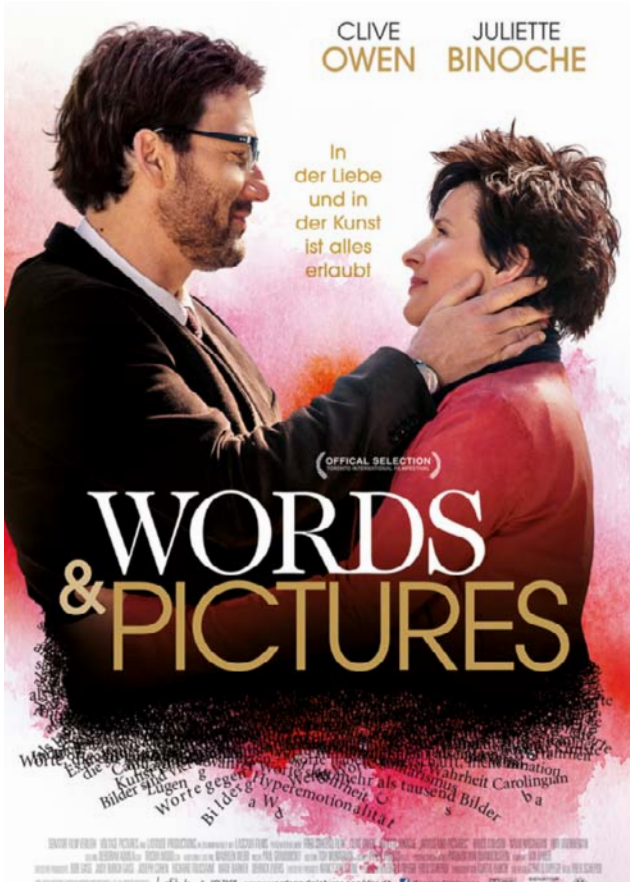
13:26 Food Factory
13:50 Ways To Save The Planet
14:38 Prototype This
15:26 Food Factory USA
15:51 Food Factory USA
16:14 Mythbusters
17:02 Eco-Tech
17:50 Prototype This
18:40 Mythbusters
19:30 Mythbusters
20:20 How Do They Do It?
20:45 Food Factory
21:10 Eco-Tech
22:00 Mythbusters
22:50 Prototype This
23:40 Mythbusters



00:20 Iyanla: Fix My Life
01:10 90 Days To Wed
02:00 My Big Fat Fabulous Life
02:25 Say Yes To The Dress: Bridesmaids
02:50 Love At First Swipe
03:15 Cake Boss
03:35 Iyanla: Fix My Life
04:20 Little People, Big World
04:45 Little People, Big World
05:10 Toddlers & Tiaras
06:00 Little People, Big World
06:25 Little People, Big World
06:50 Little People, Big World
07:15 Little People, Big World
07:40 Little People, Big World
08:05 Little People, Big World
08:30 Outdaugtered: Busby Quints
09:20 Sister Wives
10:10 Say Yes To The Dress: The Big Day
11:00 Say Yes To The Dress: The Big Day
11:50 Love At First Swipe
12:15 Love At First Swipe
12:40 Love At First Swipe
13:05 Love At First Swipe
13:30 Love At First Swipe
13:55 Oprah: Where Are They Now?
14:45 Iyanla: Fix My Life
15:35 Cake Boss
16:00 Cake Boss
16:25 Cake Boss
16:50 Cake Boss
17:15 Cake Boss
17:40 Save My Style
18:05 Save My Style
18:30 Little Miss Atlanta
19:20 Outdaugtered: Busby Quints
20:10 Sister Wives
21:00 Outdaugtered: Busby Quints
21:50 Sister Wives
22:40 Too Ugly For Love?
23:30 Return To Amish



00:00 Ultimate Guide To The Presidents
01:00 Ancient Discoveries
02:00 Monster Quest
02:50 Ancient Aliens
03:40 Million Dollar Genius
04:30 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved
05:20 Ultimate Guide To The Presidents
06:10 The Universe
07:00 Ancient Discoveries
08:00 Monster Quest
09:00 Ancient Aliens
10:00 Million Dollar Genius
11:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved
12:00 Ultimate Guide To The Presidents
13:00 Ancient Discoveries
14:00 Monster Quest



WORDS AND PICTURES ON OSN MOVIES FESTIVAL HD

15:00 Ancient Aliens
16:00 Million Dollar Genius
17:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved
18:00 Ultimate Guide To The Presidents



00:20 Lost Worlds
02:00 Gold Hunters: Legend Of The Superstition...
02:50 Storage Wars
03:15 American Pickers
04:05 Pawn Stars
04:30 Pawn Stars
05:00 Mountain Men
06:00 Lost Worlds
06:50 Time Team
07:40 Battle 360
08:30 Ax Men
09:20 Ice Road Truckers
10:10 Swamp People
11:00 American Pickers
11:50 Big Easy Motors
12:40 Pawn Stars
13:05 Pawn Stars
13:30 American Restoration
18:30 Shipping Wars
19:20 Leepu And Pitbull
20:10 Ice Road Truckers
21:00 American Pickers
21:50 Ozzy & Jack's World Detour
22:40 Forged In Fire
23:30 The Curse Of Oak Island



00:00 Tia Mowry At Home
01:00 Dinner At Tiffani's
02:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
03:00 Man Fire Food
04:00 Chopped
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
06:00 Barefoot Contessa
07:00 The Kitchen
08:00 The Pioneer Woman
09:00 Cooking For Real
10:00 Siba's Table
11:00 The Kitchen
12:00 The Pioneer Woman
13:00 Siba's Table
14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
15:00 Chopped
16:00 The Kitchen
17:00 Cooking For Real
18:00 Chopped
19:00 Chopped Junior
20:00 Ching's Amazing Asia
21:00 Reza Spice Prince Of Vietnam
22:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
23:00 Guy's Grocery Games

Word Search Puzzles

70's Songs

Find and circle all of these songs from the 1970's that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell the title of an additional song from the 70's.

AREKOJEHTRICHGIRLTHGLMBVIEAREYHYWADYETLNYLAOINBSOSAQAANEKWI

AOBCGLARAXTUNVIBCRDMLSBIAEAWOEACRKNOIDRABUEWRRRRNRWINLSROBOIEM

MPOGOATLINNANEEOCOBR

AENYCCOHGYTSLEFNRLDGRORNOEQUEA

IUKIUGBESGSTHKIUNVRDTIGLSFDRE

ITRIAEVIOOPZSOAIFAFAVE

EIAAEDJOCTUAWNCRUBSOM

TGNRDRDOLMSDRTLDTUEMA

AIENFHREPSOEAKEUSOYT

YODOECEAOAWUNNLTKTYEH

ONYNLLPENMONEIOEOSDGC

CRACKLINROSIEYHLHSAIA

AKISLANDGIRLTVRRIISNF

FAMESSALGFOTRAEHOMEE

ANGIE

BABE

BAD BLOOD

BETH

BROWN SUGAR

CAR WASH

CONVOY

CRACKLIN' ROSIE

CROCODILE ROCK

DANCING QUEEN

DREAMING

DREAMS

FAME

FREE BIRD

GREASE

HEART OF GLASS

HOT STUFF

HOTEL CALIFORNIA

ISLAND GIRL

JIVE TALKIN'

LAYLA

LE FREAK

LOLA

LOVIN' YOU

LOWDOWN

MACARTHUR PARK

MAGGIE MAY

MISS YOU

MONEY

NIGHT MOVES

OHIO

POP MUZIK

RHIANNON

RHINESTONE COWBOY

RICH GIRL

ROXANNE

SAD EYES

SIR DUKE

STAYIN' ALIVE

SUPERSTITION

THE JOKER

TRAGEDY

VENUS

WATERLOO

YOUR SONG

Yesterday's Solution

60's Songs

MSSEDUJYEHRRREXOBEHTY

SSWILDTHTINGWIPEOUTK

THIMZBCCECYLEGNAEETO

HKYGRCRNEEYAWANURO

ESIGYDVAAYOPSBUSSTOP

ESIWALRITSTELPASOS

EARNWLOYANSEEOMYGUY

ELLNLVUVMGERRKERGH

YWHITERABBITVRDFOPS

SLBHORTFPNAALCAUNIR

BLAPWIEEITGPPYIAPYIR

LUBMNOOVSNOYTAPGSVEH

ELEYEYPOIAOGYRYDOEOH

LEVLMLLOWGCWZELRUISLCL

EOERTNYEATORLEDLDL

NLVGEIHYRRVAMTRHD OA

OVEHACUCGEIAEOIISOH

RETHTWINDYNFWHHPAGT

ETCIEBLUEMOONNYATISHR

BABY LOVE

BLUE MOON

BLUE VELVET

BUS STOP

CARA MIA

CHAIN GANG

CHERISH

CRAZY

CRYING

DIZZY

DOWNTOWN

EL PASO

ELENORE

FINGERTIPS

FIRE

GALVESTON

GOOD LOVIN'

GROOVIN'

HAIR

HEATWAVE

HEY JUDE

HOLIDAY

ITCHYCOO PARK

LAST KISS

MEMPHIS

MY GIRL

MY GUY

PEOPLE

PUPPY LOVE

RESPECT

RUNAWAY

SHERRY

SOUL MAN

SPOOKY

STAY

SURF CITY

TEEN ANGEL

THE BOXER

THE TWIST

THESE EYES

VALLERI

VOLARE

WHITE RABBIT

WILD THING

WINDY

WIPEOUT

WORDS

YESTERDAY

The hidden song is: MRS. BROWN YOU'VE GOT A LOVELY DAUGHTER

Daily SuDoku

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

CROSSWORD 1592

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		12	13	14
15				16									17		
18			19		20						21	22			
23				24					25		26				
			27			28		29							
30	31	32						33			34		35	36	37
38					39		40		41						
42				43		44		45					46		
47			48		49		50			51	52				
53			54				55			56				57	
		58				59			60		61				
62	63				64				65						
66			67	68				69			70	71	72	73	
74		75		76			77				78		79		
80				81									82		
83				84										85	

ACROSS

1. A caustic detergent useful for removing grease.
4. A vertebrate animal having four feet or legs or leglike appendages.
12. An advanced law degree.
15. Feline mammal usually having thick soft fur and being unable to roar.
16. Agile long-tailed nocturnal African lemur with dense woolly fur and large eyes and ears.
17. A tube in which a body fluid circulates.
18. (Old Testament) In Judeo-Christian mythology.
20. Full of submerged reefs or sandbanks or shoals.
21. Marked by or showing unaffected simplicity and lack of guile or worldly experience.
23. Unhappy in love.
25. Grown for its thickened edible aromatic root.
27. Wearing footwear.
29. A city in the European part of Russia.
30. Type genus of the Cariamidae comprising only the crested caria.
33. Soviet physicist and dissident.
38. An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
39. A condition (mostly in boys) characterized by behavioral and learning disorders.
41. Basal part of a plant ovule opposite the micropyle.
42. A health resort near a spring or at the seaside.
44. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
46. Airtight sealed metal container for food or drink or paint etc..
47. A landlocked mountainous republic in southeast central Asia north of Afghanistan.
50. A hard malleable ductile silvery metallic element that is resistant to corrosion.
53. A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.
54. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
55. A soft white precious univalent metallic element having the highest electrical and thermal conductivity of any metal.
56. A unit of absorbed ionizing radiation equal to 100 ergs per gram of irradiated material.
57. A silvery soft waxy metallic element of the alkali metal group.
61. The food served and eaten at one time.
62. Lacking or deprive of the sense of hearing wholly or in part.
65. An inactive volcano in Sicily.
66. Before noon.
67. Any culture medium that uses agar as the gelling agent.
70. (Babylonian) God of wisdom and agriculture and patron of scribes and schools.

74. Counting the number of white and red blood cells and the number of platelets in 1 cubic millimeter of blood.
76. Brush turkeys.
79. The act of slowing down or falling behind.
80. The corporate executive responsible for the operations of the firm.
81. A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
82. United States liquid unit equal to 4 quarts or 3.785 liters.
83. A rapid bustling commotion.
84. Smaller than Florida pompano.
85. American prizefighter who won the world heavyweight championship three times (born in 1942).

DOWN

1. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
2. Remove with or as if with a ladle.
3. Indicating the most important performer or role.
4. A metallic element of the rare earth group.
5. Small genus of herbs of warm regions of southern North America to northern South America.
6. Anterior pituitary hormone that stimulates the function of the thyroid gland.
7. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet.
8. A tablet placed horizontally on top of the capital of a column as an aid in supporting the architrave.
9. A derogatory term for a white person (said to have been used by North American Indians).
10. A Russian river.
11. A unit of force equal to the force that imparts an acceleration of 1 cm/sec/sec to a mass of 1 gram.
12. Being seven more than fifty.
13. Rock that in its molten form (as magma) issues from volcanos.
14. One thousandth of a second.
19. (physics) Of or pertaining to a meson.
22. Wild sheep of semidesert regions in central Asia.
24. The federal agency that insures residential mortgages.
26. The cardinal number that is the fifth power of ten.
28. An informal term for a father.
31. Strike with disgust or revulsion.
32. Having been read.
34. Australian shrubs and small trees with evergreen usually spiny leaves and dense clusters of showy flowers.
35. Framework for holding objects.
36. A chronic disease of the nose characterized by a foul-smelling nasal discharge and atrophy of nasal structures.
37. Someone who willfully destroys or defaces property.
40. Fairly small terrestrial ferns of tropical America.
43. Above average in size or number or quantity or magnitude or extent.
45. Port city that is the capital and largest city of Latvia.
48. A port in western Israel on the Mediterranean.
49. Unknown god.
51. (grammar) A verb tense used to relate past action.
52. Someone whose business is advertising.
58. A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.
59. Made of grain or relating to grain or the plants that produce it.
60. Free from fear or doubt.
63. To fix or set securely or deeply.
64. Minute floating marine tunicate having a transparent body with an opening at each end.
68. A short labored intake of breath with the mouth open.
69. A distinct part that can be specified separately in a group of things that could be enumerated on a list.
71. Primitive chlorophyll-containing mainly aquatic eukaryotic organisms lacking true stems and roots and leaves.
72. Any of numerous local fertility and nature deities worshipped by ancient Semitic peoples.
73. Large sweet juicy hybrid between tangerine and grapefruit having a thick wrinkled skin.
75. The sound made by a pigeon v 1.
77. Electronic equipment that provides visual images of varying electrical quantities.
78. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

Yesterday's Solution

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

VINEGAR GIVES HOPE IN REEF STARFISH BATTLE

SYDNEY: Coral-munching crown-of-thorns starfish can be safely killed by common household vinegar, scientists revealed yesterday in a discovery that offers hope for Australia's struggling Great Barrier Reef. The predatory starfish is naturally-occurring but has proliferated due to pollution and run-off at the World Heritage-listed ecosystem, which is also reeling from two consecutive years of mass coral bleaching. Until now other expensive chemicals such as bile salts have been used to try and eradicate the pest-which consumes coral faster than it can be regenerated-but they can harm other marine organisms.

Tests by James Cook University, in collaboration with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA), showed vinegar was safe, effective and cheap. Study head Lisa Bostrom-Einarsson said crown-of-thorns were injected with vinegar at four sites on the reef over six weeks, causing them to die within 48 hours with no impact on other life. "We recorded live coral cover, abundance of coral disease, fish abundance and diversity, fish diseases and the abundance of closely related invertebrates before, during and after the six-week study period and found no detrimental effects," she said.

Keeping crown-of-thorns under control however is a tough ask, with dive teams needing to individually inject each starfish before it dies and breaks-up. But despite the labor-intensive job, it is far more efficient than extracting them from the water before killing them. A major study of the reef's health published in 2012 showed cover had halved over the past 27 years and attributed 42 percent of the damage to crown-of-thorns starfish.

'Massive effort'

GBRMPA director of tourism and stewardship Fred Nucifora said the new method would be used to target reefs identified as having high conservation and tourism values. "Culling crown-of-thorns starfish is a critical management activity to protect coral cover and boost reef resilience, particularly in the wake of coral bleaching," he said. Earlier this month, scientists revealed the 2,300-kilometre (1,400-mile) long Barrier Reef was suffering its second consecutive mass bleaching event due to warming sea temperatures, and said some coral had "zero prospect" of recovery. — AFP

HOME-MADE BRICKS FOR A MARS HABITAT

PARIS: Scientists said yesterday that they have manufactured tiny bricks out of artificial Martian soil, anticipating the day when humans may construct colonies on the Red Planet. Remarkably, the technique requires only that the red-hued building blocks be compressed in a precise way-no additives or baking required. "The people who will go to Mars will be incredibly brave, they will be pioneers and I would be honored to be their brick maker," said Yu Qiao, a professor at the University of California San Diego and lead author of a study in Scientific Reports.

Structural engineers used a dirt mixture concocted by NASA that mimics Martian soil to make hundreds of 3 millimeter-thick, disc-shaped bricks. By accident, they had discovered that high-pressure compression hardened the artificial soil into rock-solid structures stronger than steel-reinforced concrete. Once the stuff of science fiction, human habitation of Mars has captured the collective imagination, and inspired governments and billionaires to explore the feasibility of making the Red Planet a home away from home.

Made-in-Mars

In March, the US Congress passed a bill-signed by President Donald Trump directing NASA to send a manned mission to Mars in 2033. Qiao believes real Martian soil could be compacted layer by layer to form a wall or shaped into larger bricks. Previous ideas for how to make



SAN DIEGO: A hand out photo taken in 2016 and made available by Jacobs School of Engineering at the University of California at San Diego shows a brick made out of Martian-like soil simulant compacted under pressure, but which was not baked. Scientists have manufactured tiny bricks, anticipating the day when humans may construct colonies on the Red Planet. — AFP

construction materials on Mars involved building nuclear plants to fire bricks, or hauling large quantities of polymer — a kind of glue-from Earth. Professor Qiao's proposed masonry, on the other hand, would be 100 percent made-in-Mars and require minimal resources.

"All the previous methods involved energy intensive heating or pretty significant space transportation from Earth for additives," the researcher told AFP. Iron oxide-the component that gives Mars its reddish hue-is thought to be the "cementing agent" that makes the soil so malleable. Whether real Martian soil would react in the same way is still

uncertain, Qiao concedes-only on site tests would tell for sure. But he hopes his approach will be given a hearing. Qiao initially set out to use lunar soil to make cement. When he applied the same technique to Martian-like soil, he discovered its exceptional properties.

NASA's Curiosity rover collected samples of Martian dust and sand for the first time in 2012, analyzing its composition in a laboratory inside the mobile robot. The soil was found to contain a complex chemistry of water, sulphur, and chlorine substances but no traces of organic carbon compounds that could indicate signs of life. — AFP

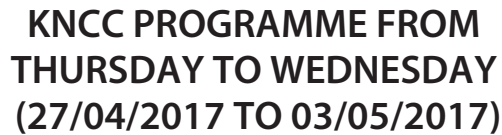
CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times

Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
استشاري أطفال
M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAP. PEM

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



SHARQIA-1		MONOLITH	8:30 PM	BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi	8:30 PM
THE BOSS BABY	12:00 PM	MONOLITH	10:15 PM	BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi	11:45 PM
THE BOSS BABY	2:00 PM	MONOLITH	12:05 AM		
THE BOSS BABY	4:00 PM			AVENUES-5	
THE BOSS BABY	6:00 PM	FANAR-4		FREE FIRE	11:45 AM
MONOLITH	8:00 PM	THE BOSS BABY	11:30 AM	THE BOSS BABY	1:45 PM
MONOLITH	10:00 PM	THE BOSS BABY	1:30 PM	NO THU	
MONOLITH	12:05 AM	THU		Special Show "THE BOSS BABY"	1:45 PM
		BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Telugu	1:30 PM	SUN	
SHARQIA-2		FRI		THE BOSS BABY	3:45 PM
THE BOSS BABY	11:30 AM	BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi	1:30 PM	THE BOSS BABY	6:00 PM
THE BOSS BABY	1:30 PM	NO THU+FRI		NO THU	
THU		BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Telugu	4:45 PM	Special Show "THE BOSS BABY"	6:00 PM
BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Telugu	1:30 PM	BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Telugu	8:00 PM	THU	
FRI		BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi	11:15 PM	FAST & FURIOUS 8	8:15 PM
BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi	1:30 PM			FAST & FURIOUS 8	11:00 PM
NO THU+FRI		FANAR-5			
BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Telugu	4:45 PM	MINE	1:00 PM	AVENUES-6	
THU+FRI		SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE- Arabic	1:30 PM	COLOSSAL	1:00 PM
BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi	4:45 PM	FRI		BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Telugu	3:30 PM
NO THU+FRI		BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi	3:30 PM	NO THU	
BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi	8:00 PM	NO THU		COLOSSAL	4:00 PM
BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Telugu	11:15 PM	SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE- Arabic	4:00 PM	THU	
THU		THU		BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Telugu	6:45 PM
BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi	11:15 PM	BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi	6:45 PM	BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Telugu	10:00 PM
NO THU		BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Telugu	10:00 PM	COLOSSAL	1:15 AM
		MINE	1:15 AM		
SHARQIA-3				AVENUES-7	
FREE FIRE	12:00 PM	MARINA-1		MINE	12:00 PM
FREE FIRE	2:00 PM	THE LOST CITY OF Z	12:15 PM	MOUSEM AL NISYAN (OBLIVION SEASON)	2:30 PM
FREE FIRE	4:15 PM	THE LOST CITY OF Z	3:00 PM	WELAANE - Lebanese	4:45 PM
THE LOST CITY OF Z	6:15 PM	WELAANE -Lebanese	5:45 PM	MOUSEM AL NISYAN (OBLIVION SEASON)	7:00 PM
MOUSEM AL NISYAN (OBLIVION SEASON)	9:00 PM	WELAANE -Lebanese	8:00 PM	WELAANE -Lebanese	9:15 PM
FREE FIRE	11:00 PM	WELAANE -Lebanese	10:15 PM	WELAANE -Lebanese	11:30 PM
FREE FIRE	1:00 AM	THE LOST CITY OF Z	12:30 AM		
				AVENUES-8	
MUHALAB-1		MARINA-2		SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE	11:30 AM
FREE FIRE	11:45 AM	FAST & FURIOUS 8	12:30 PM	THE LOST CITY OF Z	1:30 PM
FREE FIRE	1:45 PM	FREE FIRE	1:30 PM	HEADSHOT	4:30 PM
THU		FRI		THE LOST CITY OF Z	6:45 PM
BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Telugu	1:45 PM	FAST & FURIOUS 8	3:15 PM	HEADSHOT	9:45 PM
FRI		THE LOST CITY OF Z	6:00 PM	THE LOST CITY OF Z	12:05 AM
BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi	1:45 PM	FAST & FURIOUS 8	8:45 PM		
NO THU+FRI		FAST & FURIOUS 8	11:30 PM	AVENUES-9	
FREE FIRE	5:00 PM	MARINA-3		FAST & FURIOUS 8	12:30 PM
BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi	7:00 PM	FREE FIRE	12:00 PM	FAST & FURIOUS 8	3:15 PM
FREE FIRE	10:15 PM	THE BOSS BABY	2:00 PM	FAST & FURIOUS 8	6:00 PM
FREE FIRE	12:15 AM	THE BOSS BABY	4:00 PM	GHOST IN THE SHELL	8:45 PM
		THE BOSS BABY	6:00 PM	FAST & FURIOUS 8	11:15 PM
		FREE FIRE	8:00 PM		
MUHALAB-2		FREE FIRE	10:00 PM	AVENUES-10	
THE LOST CITY OF Z	1:15 PM	FREE FIRE	12:05 AM	FREE FIRE	12:00 PM
FAST & FURIOUS 8	1:30 PM	FREE FIRE		BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic	2:15 PM
FRI				SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE	4:30 PM
THE LOST CITY OF Z	4:00 PM	AVENUES-1		FREE FIRE	6:30 PM
FAST & FURIOUS 8	6:45 PM	MONOLITH	1:00 PM	FREE FIRE	8:30 PM
FAST & FURIOUS 8	9:30 PM	MONOLITH	3:00 PM	FREE FIRE	10:30 PM
THE LOST CITY OF Z	12:15 AM	NO THU+FRI		FREE FIRE	12:30 AM
		SAFRA 5 NJOOM	3:00 PM		
MUHALAB-3		THU+FRI		AVENUES-11	
THE BOSS BABY	12:00 PM	MONOLITH	5:00 PM		
NO FRI		MONOLITH	7:00 PM	THE BOSS BABY -CINESCAPE 11-2D	12:30 PM
THE BOSS BABY	2:00 PM	MONOLITH	9:00 PM	THE BOSS BABY -CINESCAPE 11-2D	2:45 PM
NO FRI		MONOLITH	11:00 PM	THE BOSS BABY -CINESCAPE 11-2D	5:00 PM
THE BOSS BABY	4:00 PM	MONOLITH	1:00 AM	THE BOSS BABY -CINESCAPE 11-2D	7:15 PM
NO THU+FRI				FAST & FURIOUS 8 -CINESCAPE 11-2D	9:30 PM
BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Telugu	4:00 PM	AVENUES-2		FAST & FURIOUS 8 -CINESCAPE 11-2D	12:15 AM
THU		THE BOSS BABY -3D-4DX	11:45 AM		
BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Telugu	7:15 PM	(2D+3D+4DX)		360 -- 1	
THU		THE BOSS BABY -3D-4DX	2:00 PM	THE BOSS BABY	11:30 AM
BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Telugu	10:30 PM	THE BOSS BABY -3D-4DX	4:15 PM	THE BOSS BABY	1:45 PM
THU		THE BOSS BABY -3D-4DX	6:30 PM	THE BOSS BABY	4:00 PM
BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Telugu	3:00 PM	FAST & FURIOUS 8-2D-4DX	9:15 PM	THE BOSS BABY	6:15 PM
FRI		FAST & FURIOUS 8-2D-4DX	12:05 AM	THE BOSS BABY	8:30 PM
BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Telugu	6:30 PM			THE BOSS BABY	10:45 PM
NO THU		AVENUES-3		FREE FIRE	1:00 AM
BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Telugu	9:45 PM	FAST & FURIOUS 8	11:30 AM		
NO THU		FAST & FURIOUS 8	2:30 PM	360 -- 2	
FREE FIRE	1:00 AM	THU		MONOLITH	12:15 PM
NO THU		BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Telugu	2:30 PM	MONOLITH	2:15 PM
		FRI		MONOLITH	4:15 PM
FANAR-1		BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi	2:30 PM	MONOLITH	6:00 PM
FAST & FURIOUS 8	12:15 PM	NO THU+FRI		MONOLITH	8:00 PM
FAST & FURIOUS 8	3:00 PM	BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi	5:45 PM	MONOLITH	10:00 PM
FAST & FURIOUS 8	5:45 PM	NO THU+FRI		MONOLITH	12:05 AM
MOUSEM AL NISYAN (OBLIVION SEASON)	8:30 PM	BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Telugu	5:45 PM		
MOUSEM AL NISYAN (OBLIVION SEASON)	10:30 PM	THU+FRI		360 -- 3	
FAST & FURIOUS 8	12:30 AM	BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi	9:00 PM	UNFORGETTABLE	1:00 PM
		NO THU		BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Tamil	3:15 PM
FANAR-2		Special Show "BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Telugu"		NO THU	
THE BOSS BABY	1:00 PM	9:00 PM		UNFORGETTABLE	4:00 PM
THE BOSS BABY	3:00 PM	THU		THU	
THE BOSS BABY	5:00 PM	BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi	12:15 AM	BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Malayalam	6:30 PM
THE BOSS BABY	7:00 PM	AVENUES-4		BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Tamil	9:45 PM
FREE FIRE	9:00 PM	FAST & FURIOUS 8	11:30 AM	HEADSHOT	1:00 AM
FREE FIRE	11:00 PM	FAST & FURIOUS 8	2:00 PM		
FREE FIRE	1:00 AM	THU		AL-KOUT.1	
		BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi	2:00 PM	FAST & FURIOUS 8	11:30 AM
FANAR-3		NO THU		SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE	2:15 PM
FREE FIRE	12:45 PM	BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi	5:15 PM	FAST & FURIOUS 8	4:15 PM
FREE FIRE	2:45 PM	NO THU+FRI		FAST & FURIOUS 8	7:00 PM
MONOLITH	5:00 PM	Special Show "THE BOSS BABY"	5:15 PM	FAST & FURIOUS 8	9:45 PM
MONOLITH	6:45 PM	THU+FRI		FAST & FURIOUS 8	12:30 AM

LOST

Original document policy
No. 6330019031, Abdul
Mohsen Khan, the State Life
Insurance Corporation of
Pakistan, Gulf Zone is
reported to have been lost.
Anyone finding the same or
claiming any interest in it
should communicate with
the Manager Kuwait State
Life Office - Ph: 22452208.
(C 5304)
27-4-2017

Civil ID (No.
278051605719), Kuwait
driving license, ATM card,

CHANGE OF NAME

**I, Sajida Samir Kazi D/o Gulam Hussain holder of Indian Passport No. P7110390 & Civil ID No. 279093004633 has changed my name to Sajida Gulam Hussain hereinafter in all my dealings and documents. (C 5303)
27-4-2017**



EMERGENCY



112

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

Friday Times BUSINESS

FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 2017



Samsung posts the 'biggest net profit'

TRUMP SAYS TO RENEGOTIATE NAFTA, NO EXIT FOR NOW

Page 41

Page 40



WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence greet Harley Davidson President and CEO Matthew S Levatich on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington. — AP

TRUMP PROPOSES MAJOR TAX CUTS

WASHINGTON: The Trump administration Wednesday unveiled plans to dramatically cut taxes for US businesses and individuals, slashing the corporate rate to 15 percent, but the once-in-a-generation overhaul is headed for a tough fight in Congress. As Donald Trump's presidency nears the symbolic 100-day mark, the Republican is seeking to follow through on a flagship promise to reform the tax code to boost the economy, businesses and families, including middle-class and working-class Americans. "Under the Trump plan, we will have a massive tax cut for businesses and massive tax reform and simplification," US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin announced from the White House.

Slashing taxes on income and business was a key part of Trump's election platform. The plan's signature reform would be a dramatic reduction of the corporate tax rate, from the current 35 percent to 15 percent. Tax brackets for individuals would be compressed from seven to just three 10 percent, 25 percent and 35 percent, lower than the current top rate of 39.6 percent. "It's a great plan," Trump said at the White House on Wednesday. "It's going to put people back to work."

Killing off the 'death tax'

The proposal also eliminates the estate tax-referred to by some opponents as the "death tax"-a levy on property including cash and real estate transferred from deceased individuals to their heirs. But with the tax plan limiting most deductions, it could expose more of an average American household's income to taxes. Gary Cohn, the president's chief economic

advisor who unveiled the plan along with Mnuchin, dubbed it "the most significant tax reform legislation since 1986, and one of the biggest tax cuts in American history." The goal, the White House said, is for the reforms to propel the US economy to three percent annual growth.

But the long-anticipated overhaul-details of which remained unclear beyond a handful of headline measures-could face stiff opposition in Congress, including from some Republicans, with lawmakers sharply divided over the prospect of fueling already-rising deficits. "This isn't going to be easy. Doing big things never is," Cohn admitted. "We will be attacked from the left and we will be attacked from the right. But one thing is certain: I would never ever bet against this president."

Taxing overseas profits

Mnuchin declined to set a deadline for the reform passing Congress, but he said the administration was aiming to "get this done this year." He and Cohn said there was fundamental agreement on the core principles of the plan, although particulars were still being worked out with lawmakers. A key element is a one-time tax on overseas profits, which Mnuchin said will "bring back trillions of dollars that are offshore to be invested here in the United States."

That rate has yet to be finalized. Also unclear is how current tax breaks for child care will be restructured. The tax plan's impact on the deficit and debt will be key to winning backing on Capitol Hill. House Speaker Paul Ryan hailed the

reform as "progress," even though Mnuchin signaled it would not include a tax on imports, something Ryan lobbied for among fellow Republicans. "It's basically along exactly the same lines that we want to go," Ryan said.

'Explode the deficit'

Democrats sounded an immediate warning to the White House. "If the president's plan is to give a massive tax break to the very wealthy in this country, a plan that will mostly benefit people and businesses like President Trump's, that won't pass muster with we Democrats," Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer said. He also warned that a plan that dramatically shrinks tax revenues would "explode the deficit." "The only result of this plan will be a steep increase in our country's deficit while leaving working- and middle-class families in the dust," House Democrat Gwen Moore fumed in a statement.

Some Republicans, particularly in high-tax states, expressed concern about the proposed repeal of certain existing provisions. "I can't support it if it eliminates the property tax and state income tax deductions," Congressman Peter King of New York said. Analysts have said cutting the top marginal corporate tax rate by 20 percentage points could add \$2 trillion or more to the deficit over a decade. The administration has said its tax cuts will spur growth, bringing in tax revenues to make up the difference, a calculation known as "dynamic scoring" which the Trump administration supports. — AFP



BRUSSELS: European Chief Negotiator for Brexit Michel Barnier (third left) meets with members of 'The 3 Million' at EU headquarters in Brussels. The 27 European Union nations head into two years of divorce negotiations with Britain as a solid bloc and said yesterday that there is a large consensus on the tough guidelines for their Brexit negotiators which are to be approved at tomorrow's summit. — AP

BRITISH TOURISM SET FOR A BUMPER YEAR

WEAK POUND BOOSTS DEMAND

LONDON: The British hotel and leisure industry is set for a bumper year as a weak pound boosts demand from foreign tourists and deters Britons from travelling abroad, a survey by Barclays showed yesterday. Nearly two-thirds of international holidaymakers surveyed by the bank said they were more interested in holidaying in the UK compared with this time last year. The top driver of this was the weaker pound, cited by 31 percent, while greater spending power was cited by 30 percent. "2017 looks set to be a strong year for the British hospitality sector with both domestic and international visitors increasingly intent on spending more time here," Mike Saul, head of hospitality and leisure at Barclays, said.

"The impact of a weak sterling, at least temporarily, has boosted the UK's international appeal." The weaker pound means that Britons conversely get less bang for their buck abroad, and rising inflation is also fuelling demand from domestic holidaymakers. Nearly a third of UK holidaymakers expected to spend more of their holiday time in Britain this year, and 38 percent of those who cited cost as a factor said that the weaker pound had made holidays in the UK preferable to going abroad.

The pound is down around 15 percent since Britain voted to leave the European Union. Out of international holidaymakers, 31 percent said they

were more likely to visit Britain than before the referendum last June, although about a half of those asked said the vote had no impact on their likelihood of making a trip. The Barclays report surveyed almost 10,000 guests from the UK, continental Europe, the US, Middle East, Asia and Australia.

Car production rises

In another development, British car production rose to a 17-year high in the first three months of 2017, as rising overseas demand offset weaker appetite from domestic car buyers, the country's automotive industry said yesterday. Car production has been one of the strongest areas of British manufacturing in recent years, bolstered by heavy foreign investment and a recovery in global markets, but the industry fears a hit when Britain leaves the European Union.

More than three quarters of cars produced in Britain are exported, and overseas demand grew 7.6 percent in the first three months of 2017 versus a 4.3 percent fall in domestic demand, the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders said. In March alone British car makers produced 170,691 vehicles, 7.3 percent more than a year earlier and the highest number for any month since March 2000. This took first quarter output to its highest since 2000 as well, with 471,695 cars manufactured.

Sterling has fallen sharply since June 2016's vote to leave the EU, giving British exporters a temporary cost advantage - though in the automotive sector much of that is mitigated by heavy use of imported components. "UK car manufacturing is accelerating thanks to billions of pounds of investment committed over the past few years," SMMT chief executive Mike Hawes said.

The SMMT expects British annual car production to beat its all-time peak of more than 2 million in 2020, if Britain retains easy access to European markets after Brexit. "Much of our output goes to Europe and it's vital we maintain free trade between the UK and EU or we risk destroying this success story," Hawes said. He added that he was also concerned about possible measures to penalise diesel cars, which made up almost half of production.

Separately, the Confederation of British Industry said the government needed to focus on reaching a trade deal with the EU in the two years that remain before Britain leaves, rather than arguing over an exit bill that is likely to cost tens of billions of euros. "For both sides, leaving the negotiating table without a deal shouldn't be 'Plan B' but 'Plan Z'. Whether it's tariffs or regulation, a no deal scenario would have chilling effects on both sides of the Channel," CBI director-general Carolyn Fairbairn said. — Agencies

EUROPE NEEDS 'OWN IMF'

BRUSSELS: Europe needs its own European monetary fund that could replace the Washington-based IMF in any future bailouts in the euro-zone, Eurogroup chairman Jeroen Dijsselbloem said yesterday. Dijsselbloem, who is also Dutch finance minister, gave the European Parliament his strongest backing yet to the idea amid an ongoing row between the euro-zone and IMF over the level of debt relief needed by Greece in its current bailout.

He said the Luxembourg-based European Stability Mechanism, the euro-zone's bailout fund, should assume

the responsibilities of the International Monetary Fund and that a report was in preparation to map out a way to do that. "We can only successfully strengthen the monetary union if responsibility and solidarity are closely linked," Dijsselbloem said. "One way to work for that is to continue working at turning the ESM into a European monetary fund," he said. Dijsselbloem was also addressing parliament to personally apologize for remarks in March that implied that southern European countries blew money on "drinks and women" before the crisis. — Agencies

News

in brief

BA offloads couple

LISBON: British Airways offloaded a couple from a London to Jamaica flight at a Portuguese air force base Wednesday after a row broke out over their demands for an upgrade to business class, military officials said. "The pilot decided to land in Lajes in the island of Terceira because of a dispute between cabin crew and a couple who wanted to be transferred from economy class to first class," an air force spokesman said. He said the couple, from Britain, had filmed the spat on a mobile phone. "The British couple will remain in Terceira and will be questioned by police," he said. The Boeing 777 had left London for the Jamaican capital Kingston late Wednesday.

Kia to invest in India

SEOUL: Kia Motors Co plans to invest \$1.1 billion in India to build its first plant in the world's fifth-largest auto market. Kia's new factory in the state of Andhra Pradesh in India's southeast will be completed by late 2019 and produce up to 300,000 vehicles per year, the company said yesterday in a statement. The maker of Optima sedan is considering making small cars and SUVs for the Indian market. Kia and its larger affiliate Hyundai Motor Group are the world's fifth-largest auto company. Hyundai makes 650,000 vehicles in India a year, but without its own production line, Kia could not enter the market due to steep tariffs on imported cars. South Korean manufacturers are increasingly moving factories overseas to cut costs and avoid labor strife that has hampered output. The new factory will increase the portion of Kia's overseas production to nearly 60 percent from 55 percent.

Deutsche Bank profits up

FRANKFURT: Germany's Deutsche Bank says net profit more than doubled in the first three months of the year as the bank pressed ahead with cost-cutting and saw more customer money flowing into its asset management business. Net profit of 575 million euros (\$626 million) exceeded 236 million euros from the same quarter a year ago and beat analyst expectations of 487 million euros as compiled by financial information provider FactSet. CEO John Cryan said Thursday the results showed that the bank was making progress in its difficult, long-term restructuring. The bank has struggled to show strong profits in an environment of low interest rates and more stringent regulation and has been shedding risky assets as well as cutting costs and jobs. It has also had to work through costly legal matters related to past misconduct.

Lloyds bank profit soars

LONDON: Britain's state-rescued Lloyds Banking Group said yesterday that first quarter net profit jumped 72 percent as exceptional costs from a year earlier were not repeated. Lloyds, which has been returned almost fully to the private sector after a state bailout during the 2008 global financial crisis, added its performance was "strong" despite challenging trade. Profit after tax soared to £871 million (\$1.12 billion, 1.02 billion euros) in the first three months of the year, compared with £506 million in the same period of 2016, LBG said in a results statement. However, the year-earlier figure was weighed down by a vast £790-million charge linked to the repurchasing of bonds launched after the global financial crisis. Underlying pre-tax profits meanwhile grew one percent to just under £2.1 billion in the first quarter of 2017.

Spain's jobless rate rises

MADRID: Spain's first-quarter jobless rate rose for the first time in two years, official figures showed yesterday, mainly due to a lull in the tourism sector. Unemployment from January to March 2017 stood at 18.7 percent, the national statistics institute INE reported. This represents a slight increase from the previous quarter when the jobless rate came in at 18.6 percent after having dropped continuously since the first three months of 2015. At the end of March this year, Spain counted 4.25 million people without employment, the INE said, adding that the services sector-and to a lesser extent industrial jobs-had been particularly hard hit. The services sector, which includes hotel and restaurant trade, saw 105,000 more people out of a job in the first quarter, it added.

DOLLAR GAINS VS EURO AFTER ECB'S DECISION

LONDON: The dollar gained against the euro yesterday after the European Central Bank left interest rates unchanged, while Sweden's crown fell sharply after its central bank fed yet more money into its economy. The ECB left its interest rates and policy stance unchanged as expected, keeping its unprecedented stimulus in place as inflation remains below target, even if growth is finally accelerating.

The dollar, earlier exhibiting weakness after disappointment over US President Donald Trump's tax plan, edged higher versus the euro as the single currency dipped following the ECB's decision. The greenback hit a day's high of \$1.0921 against the euro, up 0.2 percent on the day after the Bank's decision, with investors awaiting a press conference from 1230 GMT for any signs of a drift at the bank towards reining in its stimulus program later this year.

The dollar index, which measures the dollar against a basket of peers was up 0.1 percent at 99.097. "The focus (for the dollar) should be increasingly back to the Federal Reserve (policy), but at the same time when it comes to Trump and his announcements we believe that expectations have been falling to some extent when it comes to his potential to surprise," said Manuel Oliveri, currency strategist with Credit Agricole in London. "From that point of view, we don't expect any dollar downside risks on the back of any disappointments with respect to Trump."

Trump's plan would cut the income tax rate paid by public corporations to 15 percent from 35 percent and reduce the top tax rate assessed on pass-through businesses, including small partnerships and sole proprietorships, to 15 percent from 39.6 percent. The Swedish crown lost ground to the dollar and the euro following the Riksbank decision to keep interest rates on hold and extend its bond-buying program by 15 billion crowns. It was 1 percent lower to both, at 9.6530 crowns per euro and 8.8526 per dollar. — Reuters

GERMAN CONSUMER MORALE REBOUNDS

BERLIN: The mood among German consumers rebounded more than expected heading into May to reach a three-month high, a survey showed yesterday, citing confidence that Europe's largest economy is heading in the right direction and a dip in inflation. The consumer sentiment indicator, published by the Nuremberg-based GfK institute and based on a survey of around 2,000 Germans, rose to 10.2 going into May. A Reuters poll had expected the headline figure to rise to 9.9 from 9.8 in the previous month. GfK said overall economic expectations, propensity to buy and personal income expectations all picked up.

The government has said political uncertainties linked to Britain's vote to leave the European Union and protectionist policies in the United States are clouding the outlook, but the economy appears to be shrugging off those threats at present. Proposals presented by US Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin this week to revamp the tax system did not include a controversial "border-adjustment" tax on imports, a relief for German exporters. "Despite the uncertainty surrounding the future economic and political direction of the new US president and the Brexit negotiations which are just beginning, German consumers believe that their own economy is nonetheless headed in the right direction," GfK researcher Rolf Buerkl said in a statement.

This optimism has also lifted income prospects among Germans, who feel job security is high. Income prospects have been given an additional nudge by low inflation, which in March slowed down for the first time in nearly a year. Buerkl, who linked the drop in consumer prices to the price of crude oil, which came under pressure in March despite an agreement among producers to cut production in light of the resumption of fracking in the United States.

A steady upswing of the economy, robust labor market, low interest rates and tamed inflation are increasing a tendency among German consumers to make bigger purchases. "Employees, who consider that they enjoy good job security because of the excellent employment situation, will be more likely to take a larger risk when making purchases," Buerkl said. "If their jobs are not at risk in the foreseeable future, the willingness of consumers to make larger purchases, which may require a loan, increases," he added. — Reuters



FRANKFURT AM MAIN: The European Central Bank, is pictured in Frankfurt am Main, Germany. — AFP

ECB KEEPS STIMULUS ON HOLD; RISKS LOOM

A LE PEN VICTORY COULD UNSETTLE MARKETS

FRANKFURT: The European Central Bank has left its stimulus program unchanged as it waits for the continent's political situation to settle down and held off yesterday from signaling any retreat from its efforts to support the strengthening economy. The stand-pat decision comes days ahead of the second round of France's presidential election, in which anti-euro candidate Marine Le Pen is battling pro-EU front-runner Emmanuel Macron.

A Le Pen victory on May 7 could unsettle financial markets since she has advocated taking France out of the shared, 19-country currency. The statement from the central bank's 25-member governing council yesterday gave no fodder for additional market speculation that would ruffle financial markets, which already have enough on their minds with the French election. The statement omitted any hint of when the bank might taper off its extraordinary support measures.

The statement repeated past wording that indicates the central bank even "stands ready to increase" stimulus if the outlook for growth and inflation worsens. Analysts consider that wording a way of discouraging investors from speculating about the end of the stimulus - which might prematurely drive up market interest rates, blunting its intended benefits. Markets are waiting to see whether ECB President Mario Draghi drops any more hints at his post-meeting news conference. Betting is that he may acknowledge that the economy is improving but stay away from clear hints about when the stimulus will end.

The 60 billion euros (\$65 billion) per month in bond purchases push newly printed money into the economy in an effort to boost inflation, which is considered too weak at 1.5 percent annually. The ECB has trimmed the purchases, which started in March, 2015, from 80 billion euros a month as of April. But it insists they will continue at least until the end of the year, and in any case until inflation shows signs of turning convincingly upward toward the bank's goal of just under 2

percent. Draghi has said they won't be suddenly shut off after that but instead gradually reduced, but has not said when that taper will start.

Printing money and adding it to the economy can raise inflation, lower interest rates and make it easier for businesses to get the credit they need. It is considered an extraordinary step undertaken to keep Europe from falling into a chronic spiral of falling prices after the shock of the debt crisis that started in 2009 with financial trouble in Greece. The economy has improved markedly in recent months, with surveys showing the best growth in years. Economic output rose 0.4 percent in the fourth quarter is expected to improve this year, though inflation remains subdued and unemployment elevated at 9.5 percent.

The economic improvement has led some critics of the stimulus program to push for it to be withdrawn. Several analysts think the central bank will change the wording of its statement in its June or July meetings to signal that the economy is less in need of help. That could lead to an announcement in September on the timing of the taper to the stimulus. Key wording currently includes the bank's statement that economic risks are "tilted to the downside," meaning it's more likely the economy and inflation will grow less than expected rather than more than expected.

Another key statement is the promise to increase the stimulus if things worsen. Other stimulus measures include keeping the bank's interest rate benchmark at a record low of zero. That rate largely steers short-term rates and keeping it that low makes it cheaper for banks to borrow money on the inter-bank market, which in turn would mean in lower borrowing costs for businesses. The ECB has also imposed a minus 0.4 percent interest rate on deposits it takes from commercial banks. That is in essence a tax aimed at pushing banks to lend the money rather than leave it at the ECB's super-safe overnight deposit facility. — AP

AUSTRALIA TO RESTRICT GAS EXPORTS AS ENERGY CRISIS BITES

SYDNEY: Australia will enforce export restrictions on major gas producers, the prime minister said yesterday, to shore up domestic supply as a growing energy crisis sees power prices rise and blackouts more common. The country is expected to surpass Qatar as the world's largest liquid natural gas producer by 2020 - with Japan, China and South Korea key buyers. But booming export demands have left it short of local supplies. Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said exporters were dipping into domestic reserves to fulfill foreign contracts and intervention was needed to curtail "dramatically higher prices" paid in Australia.

"It is ridiculous for us to be on the edge of

becoming the largest LNG exporter in the world and not have to have enough gas for our businesses, for our households, for industries, great industries like this here in Australia," he said at a manufacturing plant in Queensland. The move-which from July 1 will allow the government to put export controls on producers to ensure they put more into the domestic market than they take out-was a "temporary measure" until Australia could unlock more reserves, he added. Turnbull accused state governments, who in some instances have banned gas production on environmental grounds, of "putting the energy sector and manufacturing at risk".

"We should be able to export plenty of gas and have plenty of gas available for our domestic market. We should be able to do both and we need to get more production." Major Australian gas producer Santos said it would collaborate with the government. "As an Australian company, Santos has been a long term supplier of natural gas at affordable rates in support of the domestic market on the Australian Securities Exchange," it said in a statement. "Moving forward Santos will supply more gas into the Australian domestic market than it purchases for its share of LNG exports."

Despite being one of the world's biggest

coal and gas producers, political debate over energy supply has raged since South Australia suffered a statewide blackout in September and record-high temperatures in recent months put pressure on the national energy grid. The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission announced last week an industry-wide investigation into Australia's gas market, fearing that soaring prices would put Australian firms out of business. "The inquiry will examine how gas suppliers will make more gas available to Australian industry and other domestic gas users, and the effect this has on overall market dynamics," ACCC chairman Rod Sims said.— AFP



SHANGHAI: EV Card share cars parked at a station in Shanghai. Unable to afford a car, Shanghai university student Long Yi faces a lengthy, expensive commute across his vast city but has found a solution in the car-sharing schemes quickly gaining momentum in China. — AFP

CHINA'S INDUSTRIAL PROFITS SOAR 23.8 PERCENT ON BUILDING BOOM

CONSTRUCTION BOOM SPURS PRICES OF BUILDING MATERIALS

BEIJING: Profits earned by China's industrial firms rose 23.8 percent in March from a year earlier, buoyed by a continued construction boom, though the pace of growth eased from multi-year highs seen in previous months. Profits in March rose to 688.7 billion yuan (\$99.9 billion), the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said on its website yesterday. In the first quarter, industrial profits climbed 28.3 percent to 1.7 trillion yuan, slowing from growth of 31.5 percent in the first two months but still robust enough to suggest a further recovery in fixed asset investment in China in coming months.

Higher government infrastructure spending and a frenzied housing market have helped spur sales and prices of building materials, reviving profits for the country's long-ailing "smokestack" industries such as steel mills and smelters and giving them stronger cash flow to reduce a mountain of debt. But firms further down the supply chain are seeing pressure on profit margins as they struggle to pass on higher input costs to consumers amid stiff competition. "Purchasing prices are rising too quickly which is increasing pressure on companies that are trying to cut raw material costs," NBS official He Ping said in a statement accompanying the data, adding that financial costs for businesses are also rising.

Indeed, profits of equipment manu-

facturers rose 6 percentage points from the pace in Jan-Feb, while profits for makers of consumer products were up just 0.5 percentage points. Profits for miners and producers of other raw materials fell 0.9 and 9.5 percentage points, respectively, likely reflecting a recent tumble in China's highly speculative commodities futures markets. Shares of material companies have recoiled from their highest level since the 2015 market crash, while infrastructure stocks have pulled back from multi-month highs, though both are still up solidly so far this year.

All 13 steel companies that published first-quarter results as of April 19 reported net profits had more than doubled, the China Securities Journal said last week, with Nanjing Iron and Steel posting a surge of 4,830 percent. Fatter profits for steel mills could make Beijing's job tougher as it tries to reduce industrial overcapacity by closing more inefficient and heavily polluting plants. China's largest oil and gas producer, PetroChina, said earlier this month that it expected a first-quarter profit of 5-6 billion yuan, down slightly from the preceding quarter, but a turnaround from a huge loss a year earlier.

Cooling growth

Many analysts, however, believe producer price inflation in China is peaking, which could temper profitability later

this year and rob the world's second-largest economy of some momentum. Still, strong first-quarter profits, together with an increase of 14.1 percent in fiscal revenue, have set "an excellent foundation" for improved growth quality in 2017, Ning Jizhe, vice chairman at the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), told the People's Daily in an interview on Wednesday. China's government has lowered its economic growth target to around 6.5 percent this year from a range of 6.5-7 percent last year and an actual rate of 6.7 percent.

First-quarter growth came in at a faster-than-expected 6.9 percent, which could give the economy enough of a tailwind to hit Beijing's full-year target even if growth starts to fade in coming quarters as many analysts expect. Policymakers in China are pushing a bullish message on the world's second-biggest economy, pointing to a slowdown in capital outflows and a stable yuan after a selloff last year stoked fears of instability. Ning told the state-run newspaper that market watchers should not be too sensitive to minor fluctuations in the economic growth rate and should pay more attention to the quality of growth instead. Earlier this month, the International Monetary Fund raised its 2017 growth projection for the Chinese economy to 6.6 percent from 6.5 percent. — Reuters

SAMSUNG POSTS THE BIGGEST QUARTERLY PROFIT SINCE 2013

SEOUL: South Korean tech giant Samsung Electronics posted its biggest quarterly net profit for more than three years yesterday after shrugging off the debacle over exploding Galaxy Note 7 batteries. The results, driven by strong demand for the company's memory chips, represented its second-largest ever quarterly profit. Shares in the firm-the flagship subsidiary of the sprawling Samsung Group-have climbed in recent months as rising expectations overcame last year's recall embarrassment and its vice-chairman going on trial for bribery.

But it formally dropped a reform plan yesterday that would have seen it split in two and could have made the group's opaque structure more transparent. Net profit for the January-March period jumped 46 percent from a year ago to 7.68 trillion won (\$6.7 billion), Samsung Electronics said in a statement. It was its biggest quarterly net profit since the record third quarter of 2013. Operating profit jumped 48 percent from a year ago to 9.89 trillion won-also the biggest since the third quarter of 2013.

A breakdown of the figures showed the firm's semiconductor business made its largest-ever operating profit of 6.3 trillion won. Samsung-the world's largest maker of both mobile phones and memory chips provides its chips to other companies including archrival Apple. It was humiliated by the Galaxy Note 7 recall last year, which cost it billions of dollars and dealt a blow to its reputation, but has just launched a new flagship device, the Galaxy S8, to positive reviews and strong orders. Even so Samsung warned that smartphone sales may be stagnant in the second quarter due to slowing sales of low-end handsets and "intensifying competition", with Apple set to unveil a new iPhone later this year. Shares in Samsung Electronics-South Korea's largest firm by value-rose as much as 2.8 percent to 2.2 million won in morning trade on the Seoul stock market.

But the company has come under pressure on wider fronts. Vice-chairman Lee Jae-Yong, the heir to the Samsung group, has been held in custody and is on trial for bribery, with other key executives, in connection with the sprawling corruption scandal that brought down South Korean president Park Geun-Hye. Investors have also pressed the firm to overhaul its byzantine ownership structure, which enables the founding Lee family to control the vast Samsung empire with complex web of cross-holdings across dozens of group units.

Business risks

Samsung Electronics has considered a proposal by US hedge fund Elliott suggesting it split into a holdings firm and an operating unit, but said Thursday it had dropped the plan, citing regulatory hurdles and potential business risks. "Samsung concluded the risks and the challenging environment surrounding a change in the corporate structure would not be beneficial for enhancing shareholder value and sustaining long-term business growth," it said in a statement. In an apparent bid to assuage investors, it said it would cancel 40 trillion won-worth of shares it is holding for itself, which should boost the value of remaining holdings. Lee Jae-Yong is accused of bribing Park and her secret confidante at the heart of the corruption allegations with millions of dollars in a bid to seek government favors. He has effectively been at the helm of the group since his father suffered a heart attack in 2014. His indictment in February sent shockwaves through the firm and triggered the announcement of a major reform of its top-down management style. — AFP

TRUMP TAX CUT, ECB QUESTIONS COOL RISK RALLY

EUROPEAN SHARES SNAP SIX-DAY WINNING STREAK

LONDON: A record-setting rally in world stocks ran out of steam yesterday, with unconvincing US tax cut plans cooling investors' spirits and caution setting in as the European Central Bank met. Europe's main bourses were as much as 0.7 percent lower as traders pulled back after six days of unbroken gains fuelled by relief at the outcome of the first round of France's presidential election and encouraging earnings and data. Wall Street was expected to barely budge when New York reopened while Asia had been groggy too. The Bank of Japan offered its most upbeat economic assessment in nine years, but Asia-Pacific shares ended flat a day after hitting their highest in almost two years.

A surprise move by Sweden's central bank to expand its stimulus program pushed the crown down sharply, while the Canadian dollar and Mexican peso held gains after the US said it would not scrap the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). But the focus was turning to the ECB and what bank head Mario Draghi and his colleagues have made of a recent upturn in euro zone economic data, underscored while they met as the bloc's economic confidence rose to near a 10-year high.

As widely expected, the bank made no changes to its record low interest rates or stimulus program, so the market reaction to the meeting may hinge on a few crucial words at Draghi's 1230 GMT news conference. "It is possible that the ECB will remove the language stating that the risks (to the economy) remain tilted to the downside," said Mike Bell, Global Market Strategist, JPMorgan Asset Management. Euro-zone government bond yields nudged up along with the euro which was at \$1.0913 having been as high as \$1.0950 this week after pro-EU centrist Emmanuel Macron topped the first round vote in France.

Disappointment lingered elsewhere though after Donald Trump's plans to slash US tax rates offered no concrete details on how they would be paid for. Billed beforehand as the biggest tax cut in history, they amounted to little more than a one-page plan and fuelled a suspicion that it could run into opposition from US lawmakers worried about increasing the country's debt levels. "There was virtually no new information, just as expected. He was essentially repeating his campaign promises," said Tomoaki Shishido, senior fixed income strategist at Nomura Securities.

Deutsche down

The dip in European shares saw them retreat from 20-month highs, with banks, insurers and commodity-related stocks the main drag, although gains in other cyclical industrials on the back of strong earnings kept losses down. Deutsche Bank shares fell as much as 3.5 percent as a drop in its revenues overshadowed a more than doubling of first-quarter net profits. Its shares have nearly doubled though since last year's solvency worries. Upbeat results from SKF, Bayer and Subsea 7 - companies closely geared to economic growth - were cheered as more investors piled into the European recovery story.



TOKYO: A man looks at an electronic stock board showing Japan's Nikkei 225 index at a securities firm in Tokyo yesterday. Share prices were mostly lower in Asia following US President Donald Trump's proposal for tax cuts, with Japan's Nikkei 225 index down 0.2 percent and Hong Kong's Hang Seng 0.3 percent lower. —AP

In emerging markets, the peso made the most ground but Turkey's lira was firing too, hitting its highest since early January as a surprise policy tightening by the country's central bank reassured investors about its resolve on inflation. The S&P 500 ended down fractionally on Wednesday as the questions left by Trump's tax plans overshadowed more upbeat earnings. Weekly US jobless claims data and a report on durable goods are expected at 8:30 a.m. ET (1230 GMT) and Microsoft, Amazon.com and Google parent Alphabet are scheduled to report results after the bell. Overall profits of S&P 500 companies are estimated to have risen 11.8 percent in the first quarter, the most since 2011,

according to Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S. China's growth accelerated at the fastest pace since mid-2015 in the January-March quarter, while South Korea yesterday also reported stronger than expected first-quarter growth, fuelled by improving global demand. Among commodities, industrial metals steadied though oil prices dipped again on concerns about globally bloated markets. Brent futures dropped to \$51.23 per barrel, down 59 cents, or 1 percent, from their last close. Brent is almost 9 percent below its April peak. The dollar, meanwhile, clawed up to 111.34 yen but was still down from near a one-month high of 111.78 yen scored on Wednesday. —Reuters

COMPANIES CHEER TRUMP'S TAX CUTS

WASHINGTON: US businesses would reap a windfall if President Donald Trump's plan to cut corporate tax rates and slash taxes on cash parked overseas becomes law, but it was unclear whether they would stimulate a surge in investment and job creation in return. Under Trump's proposals, American companies would move from being the most highly taxed among the Group of 20 countries to among the lowest.

Tax rates would fall below those of neighboring Mexico and Canada, which Trump has accused of shortchanging the United States in trade deals. Corporate leaders and business lobbying groups such as the US Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday cheered the administration's tax proposals, while allowing that the initial one-page plan left out crucial details. The tax plan, which includes a cut in taxes on public companies to 15 percent from 35 percent, does not detail cuts in spending that would help keep the budget deficit under control.

AT&T Corp Chief Executive Randall Stephenson welcomed the tax plan but cautioned "the practical reality of getting to 15 percent is you have to get yourself reconciled to some level of deficits for a period of time as you get the economic stimulation." Big US companies have nearly \$1.8 trillion in cash stockpiled overseas, according to Moody's Investors Service. Technology powerhouse Apple Inc has more than \$200 billion of that total.

Apple did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Wednesday, but Chief Executive Officer Tim Cook has said the company was looking to bring back offshore cash if tax rates for doing so

were lower. "What we would do with it, let's wait and see exactly what it is, but as I've said before we are always looking at acquisitions," Cook told investors on the company's first-quarter earnings call in January in response to an analyst's question about the company's thinking on acquisitions. Cook's comment points to a big unknown for the White House and congressional Republicans, who have said business tax cuts would result in more and better jobs.

Studies of the results of past tax holidays found that most of the offshore cash brought home by US companies was used to buy back shares or make acquisitions, not to fund investments in production capacity or jobs. Under pressure from shareholders, listed companies have set high targets for return on invested capital. General Motors Co., for example, has told investors it is aiming for 20 percent returns on its capital investments. Many US companies have been tightfisted about investing in new plants and equipment following the last recession, which left them wary of becoming overextended. Since 2014, investment in new equipment has flatlined, according to government data.

A mixed bag

The financial impact of the White House tax plan will vary widely by company and business sector. A proposal to cut inheritance taxes, for example, is of high interest to auto dealers, which are often family-controlled enterprises. Many companies already pay less than the headline 35 percent tax rate. Companies in the S&P 500 index paid an average tax rate of 29.06 percent for 2016, Standard and Poors said. —Reuters

TRUMP TO 'RENEGOTIATE' NAFTA, NO EXIT FOR NOW

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump stopped short Wednesday of pulling out of NAFTA despite earlier threats to exit the trade deal, saying he will renegotiate the agreement with Canada and Mexico. The announcement followed US media reports that Trump was considering giving formal notice of pulling the United States out of the North American Free Trade Agreement. Trump campaigned for president on promises to abandon or renegotiate NAFTA, a deal he claims is a "disaster" that has resulted in millions of US industrial jobs lost mostly to Mexico. He described it as "the worst trade deal maybe ever signed" in a September debate with Hillary Clinton.

Just last week Trump said NAFTA was a "very, very bad for our companies and for our workers, and we're going to make some very big changes, or we are going to get rid of NAFTA once and for all." In phone calls Wednesday to Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Trump "agreed not to terminate NAFTA at this time," the White House said in a statement. It added that "the leaders agreed to proceed swiftly, according to their required internal procedures, to enable the renegotiation of the NAFTA deal to the benefit of all three countries." "It is my privilege to bring NAFTA up to date through renegotiation," Trump said, according to the White House statement. —AFP

JUDGE HELPS YANKEES BEAT RED SOX

BOSTON: Luis Severino allowed three hits in seven innings of shutout ball and Aaron Judge celebrated his 25th birthday with a two-run homer and spectacular catch, carrying the surging New York Yankees to a 3-1 victory over the Boston Red Sox on Wednesday night in the longtime rivals' first meeting this season. It was the 11th win in 14 games for the Yankees after they opened the season 1-4. Severino (2-1) struck out six and walked two, posting his third straight strong start. Dellin Betances worked a perfect eighth and Aroldis Chapman got three outs for his fifth save despite giving up a run. AL Cy Young Award winner Rick Porcello (1-3) lost his third straight start, giving up three runs - two earned - in 6 2/3 innings. He didn't lose consecutive starts last season.

PIRATES 6, CUBS 5

Gift Ngoepe, the first player from Africa to reach the major leagues, singled in his first plate appearance and Josh Harrison hit a lead-off homer to lead Pittsburgh past Chicago. Ngoepe was recalled from Triple-A Indianapolis and entered in the fourth inning as part of a double switch. He finished 1 for 2 with a walk. The 27-year-old South African, who signed with the Pirates in 2008, led off the fourth with a hit off Cubs ace Jon Lester (0-1). The left-hander was tagged for six runs - five earned - and 10 hits in 5 2/3 innings. Josh Bell also homered off Lester. Anthony Rizzo homered and drove in four runs for the Cubs, who lost for just the second time in eight games. The Pirates won for the third time in nine games. Wade LeBlanc (1-0) pitched 1 1/3 scoreless innings in relief of rookie Tyler Glasnow. Tony Watson got four outs for his seventh save in as many chances.

MARINERS 8, TIGERS 0

James Paxton struck out nine in seven outstanding innings, and Nelson Cruz and Guillermo Heredia homered to lift Seattle over Detroit. Paxton (3-0) allowed four hits and a walk in a dominant performance against a Tigers team that had scored 32 runs over its previous two games. It was just what the Mariners needed after losing 19-9 on Tuesday and putting right-hander Felix Hernandez on the disabled list before Wednesday's game. Paxton has held the opposition scoreless in four of his five starts this season. He lowered his ERA to 1.39. Daniel Norris (1-2) allowed four runs and nine hits in four-plus innings. It was his second straight game allowing at least four earned runs after he went 21 consecutive starts yielding three or fewer.

BREWERS 9, REDS 4

Eric Thames scored twice before leaving with an injury and Orlando Arcia homered and had three RBIs to help Milwaukee beat Cincinnati for a three-game sweep. Ryan Braun had a two-run double and a single off Reds starter Rookie Davis (0-1). Jett Bandy had three hits and two RBIs as the Brewers improved to 6-1 against the Reds this season. Wily Peralta (4-1) went five-plus innings for the win, allowing four runs and eight hits. Thames, who leads the majors with 11 homers, appeared to be favoring his left hamstring as he stretched before the Reds batted in the eighth. He left the game but said afterward he was fine and will be back in the lineup Friday night against Atlanta. Cincinnati hit four solo homers during its seventh loss in eight games. Scott Schebler went deep twice, and Joey Votto and Adam Duvall also connected.

WHITE SOX 5, ROYALS 2

Avisail Garcia and Leury Garcia homered to



BOSTON: Aaron Judge #99 high fives Ronald Torreyes #74 of the New York Yankees after their victory over the Boston Red Sox at Fenway Park. — AFP

back run-starved starter Jose Quintana, and Chicago defeated Kansas City to complete a three-game sweep. Chicago won its fourth straight, while Kansas City dropped every game on a seven-game trip. Quintana (1-4) got the offensive support he needed after receiving only four runs in his first four starts combined. The left-hander had a season-high 10 strikeouts in six innings. He allowed five hits and two runs - one earned. Avisail Garcia's two-run homer in the sixth gave the White Sox a 4-2 lead. Jose Abreu and Todd Frazier had consecutive two-out RBI doubles in the first. Abreu left the game with a mild right hip flexor strain after flubbing a slow grounder in the fifth. David Robertson converted his fifth save in five tries. Nathan Karns (0-2) took the loss, allowing four runs in six innings.

INDIANS 7, ASTROS 6

Michael Brantley drove in three runs as Cleveland topped Houston. Brantley, who played in only 11 games last season after having two operations on his left shoulder, had an RBI double in a three-run first inning and added a two-run single in the fifth. Carlos Santana had a two-run double in the sixth for the Indians, who have won six of eight. Trevor Bauer (2-2) allowed four runs in six innings and won his second straight start despite giving up two-run homers to Evan Gattis and Brian McCann. Andrew Miller worked out of a bases-loaded jam in the seventh by striking out Carlos Correa and McCann. Cody Allen got four outs for his fourth save. Lance McCullers (2-1) gave up five runs in five innings.

NATIONALS 11, ROCKIES 4

Trea Turner nearly hit for the cycle for a second straight night, finishing a triple shy, and Bryce Harper had four more hits to raise his batting average to .432 as Washington

routed Colorado. Turner lined one of three Washington homers, with Ryan Zimmerman and Daniel Murphy also going deep, to help the Nationals improve to 8-1 on their 10-game trip. Tanner Roark (3-0) worked his way out of several jams and threw five solid innings. Never quite settling in on a cool night, Tyler Chatwood (2-3) gave up five runs in five innings.

PHILLIES 7, MARLINS 4

Maikel Franco hit his second grand slam of the month, helping Philadelphia beat Miami for its fifth straight win. Franco connected off Wei-Yen Chen (2-1) in the third inning for a 4-2 lead. Freddy Galvis hit a solo shot for the Phillies, and Michael Saunders added a two-run homer in the eighth. Vince Velasquez (1-2) went 6 1/3 innings for his first win since last July and lowered his ERA to 6.33. Martin Prado homered for the Marlins.

BRAVES 8, METS 2

Julio Teheran stifled the Mets into the seventh inning, Robert Gsellman staggered through a five-run first and Atlanta handed New York its fifth straight loss. The Braves ended a six-game skid behind 6 1/3 innings of two-run ball from Teheran (2-1). The right-hander allowed four hits, four walks and a pair of sacrifice flies while striking out four. He is 4-0 with a 0.91 ERA in his last seven starts against New York dating to June 21, 2015. The ailing Mets got Yoenis Cespedes and Travis d'Arnaud back in the lineup but still dropped their ninth in 10 games. Gsellman (0-2) allowed his first seven batters to reach in an exasperating first inning, including one on his own throwing error. The 23-year-old rookie gave up six runs, 10 hits and three walks over four-plus innings. His ERA climbed to 6.23.

Tyler Flowers had a three-run double in

the first and matched his career high with four RBIs.

ORIOLES 5, RAYS 4

Seth Smith drew a bases-loaded walk from Danny Farquhar to force in the winning run with two outs in the 11th inning, and Baltimore rallied to beat Tampa Bay. After the Rays scored a run in the top of the 11th, the Orioles answered against closer Alex Colome (0-1). Two singles and a walk loaded the bases for Jonathan Schoop, who hit a sacrifice fly. Ryan Flaherty walked to reload the bases, and Farquhar entered and issued a four-pitch walk to end a game that took 4 hours, 8 minutes. Alec Asher (1-0) got the win despite giving up an RBI single to Jesus Sucre in the 11th. Baltimore took two of three from Tampa Bay and has not lost a series this season. Tim Beckham hit two home runs for the Rays, who rallied from an early three-run deficit to force extra innings.

RANGERS 14, TWINS 3

Joey Gallo scored the tiebreaking run on a painful trip around the bases, Ryan Rua hit a grand slam and Texas avoided a series sweep by breaking it open late against Minnesota. Rua's first career slam came in the eighth inning and Shin-Soo Choo, who had already tripled in the inning, added a three-run homer to cap the eight-run outburst. Cole Hamels (2-0) allowed three runs over 6 2/3 innings. Gallo was hit by a pitch leading off the sixth against Taylor Rogers (1-1). The young Rangers slugger scored on a wild pitch by another reliever to make it 3-2, and was struck on the back of the right shoulder by catcher Chris Gimenez's throw after the ball ricocheted hard off the brick backstop. The Rangers set season highs for runs and hits (14). Leadoff man Delino DeShields reached base five times, stole two bags and scored three runs. — AP

RISING STAR VONDROUSOVA

PRAGUE: Czech teen sensation Marketa Vondrousova was being hailed as a rising star in the mould of tennis great Martina Navratilova after climbing 119 places in the WTA rankings in just two weeks. Ranked 233rd, Vondrousova won her maiden WTA title at the Biel/Bienne Open on April 16, rising to the top from qualifying. A week later, she managed her Fed Cup debut in the Czech Republic's defeat at the hands of the United States, losing to 23rd-ranked Coco Vandeweghe and beating world number 35 Lauren Davis.

"It's all terribly quick now," the 17-year-old world number 114 told reporters in Prague on Thursday, ahead of her next tournament starting in the Czech capital on May 1. "I guess I still haven't realised what I've achieved." The left-handed teenager-former world number one in the junior class has had to review her

plans for the season after earning a spot in Grand Slam qualifying. "I played my first Grand Slam as a junior in Paris and made it to the semi-finals (in 2014), so I'm looking forward to that-but I'm looking forward to Wimbledon too, and to all of them."

The new Navratilova

Vondrousova has an impressive record of 41 wins and five losses this year, following an eight-month break from tennis due to an elbow injury. "She realized how much she missed tennis and her will to win increased," said Zdenek Kubik, who coaches her together with Czech tennis legend Jiri Hrebec. "That was the biggest motivation for her to start playing and her results immediately started to reflect that-it was something that she really wanted."

Vondrousova said she had suffered when she saw her peers reaching the top 200, while she was sidelined. "I was ahead of them as a junior, and now they were up there. So I started each game telling myself I want to win, I was focused, and that's the reason why I'm doing well now." "I have found out I can play against anyone," said Vondrousova, who beat 17th-ranked compatriot Barbora Strycova on her way to the Biel triumph. Born on June 28, 1999, Vondrousova started playing tennis at four in her western Czech hometown of Sokolov, before moving to Prague at 10. Home is still the favorite place to relax for the secondary school student who combined tennis with floorball, football and athletics as a child. Family support is essential, she insists. "The entire family talks about tennis, I think they're quite excited, mum especially," she said. — AFP

PAKISTAN POSTPONES TOUR OF BANGLADESH

KARACHI: Pakistan's cricket chief said yesterday that a scheduled visit to Bangladesh this summer has been postponed for at least a year after the Bangladeshis refused to reciprocate the tour because of security fears. Pakistan was due to play two Tests, three one-day internationals and a Twenty20 match in Bangladesh in July and August. But the militancy-wracked country has been forced to host most of its matches overseas after an attack on the Sri Lankan team in 2009, barring a limited over series against Zimbabwe in 2015.

Security has improved over the past two years and some foreign players have tentatively endorsed returning. But cricket chief Shaharyar Khan said Bangladesh had turned down the invitation. He told AFP he had spoken to Bangladesh cricket board representatives on the sidelines of an International Cricket Council meeting in Dubai, and "decided to postpone the series for one or two years".

"But we will definitely play them," Khan added. "We toured Bangladesh in 2012 and 2015 without Bangladesh reciprocating so we hope they will discuss further and find a solution," he said. When Pakistan last toured Bangladesh in 2015 they demanded a share of the revenue, and were reportedly paid \$325,000 by the hosts. Since the suspension of international cricket Pakistan have been forced to play all their home series in the neutral venues of the United Arab Emirates. But the successful staging of the Pakistan Super League in Lahore in March has boosted long-held hopes of bringing the sport home to the cricket-obsessed nation. The Pakistan Cricket Board sees a World XI tour of the country in September for a short Twenty20 series as another positive step. "Some progress has also been made on the World XI tour and we hope that that tour will further help us in reviving international cricket in Pakistan," said Khan. — AFP

BLACK CAP BRACEWELL IN DRINK-DRIVE GUILTY PLEA

WELLINGTON: New Zealand fast bowler Doug Bracewell pleaded guilty to drink-driving yesterday, admitting he was "deeply embarrassed" over the latest alcohol-fuelled incident to mar his career. The 26-year-old conceded he was more than three times over the legal limit when police pulled him over in Hastings last month.

"I made a massive mistake by driving that evening and apologize unreservedly for my actions," he said in a statement after pleading guilty in court. "This was no one's fault but my own... I'm deeply embarrassed to have let down so many people-be they family, friends, or cricket-lovers." Bracewell is yet to be sentenced and New Zealand Cricket (NZC) said in a statement that he would be dealt with under special provisions for those who have at least two previous drink-drive convictions. NZC chief David White said it was premature to discuss whether the organization would impose its own punishment until Bracewell had been sentenced by the courts. But he said NZC "take a very dim view" of drink-driving. Bracewell was suspended for one Test in 2014 after going on a drinking spree with batsman Jesse Ryder, during which he broke a bone in his foot. In 2012, he missed the Test series against England after cutting a foot when he stood on broken glass while cleaning up after a party at his house. — AFP



MUMBAI: This file photo taken on December 11, 2015 shows International Cricket Council (ICC) Chief Executive David Richardson (L) holding the women's trophy, ICC Chairman and Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) President Shashank Manohar (C) and BCCI Secretary Anurag Thakur hold the men's trophy as they pose during an event ahead of the 2016 ICC World Twenty20 tournament. — AFP

ICC APPROVES ROLLBACK OF 'BIG THREE' DECISION

MUMBAI: The International Cricket Council's (ICC) board has voted to pass a new financial model that will reverse a 2014 decision which effectively put India, England and Australia in control of the game's finances and administration. Under the new financial model and governance structure, the split of revenues from the ICC for the years 2016 to 2023 will be altered to address the imbalance currently favoring the three boards.

The measure was passed by 13 votes to one, the governing body said in a statement on Thursday after its meetings at its headquarters in Dubai. The Indian cricket board (BCCI), according to local media, was the only one to oppose the new financial model, which would see their revenue share cut by almost half. Based on current forecasts for revenues and costs, the BCCI would now receive \$293 million across the eight-year cycle, down from the \$570 million it would have received under the 2014 arrangement.

The ICC said the England and Wales Cricket Board would be the second-best earners with \$143 million, Zimbabwe would receive \$94 million while the remaining seven full members would get \$132 million each in the new model. A revised constitution, which will allow the ICC to include additional full members in the future, was also approved by 12 votes to two. The decisions would have to be ratified at the ICC's annual conference in June. ICC Chairman Shashank Manohar, who has been critical of the 'Big Three' model, welcomed the vote.

Step forward

"This is another step forward for world cricket and I look forward to concluding the work at the Annual Conference," former BCCI chief Manohar, who will step down in June due to personal reasons, said. "I am confident we can provide a strong foundation for the sport to grow and improve globally in

the future through the adoption of the revised financial model and governance structure."

India, meanwhile, have yet to submit their squad for the upcoming Champions Trophy. The BCCI failed to deliver the squad info by the Tuesday midnight deadline and has not ruled out boycotting the tournament altogether. The ICC board members were also briefed on the security situation in Pakistan following the visit of the ICC delegation to the final of the country's Twenty20 league in March in Lahore.

"The feasibility of further matches in Pakistan involving a World XI is now being considered from a security and budget perspective," the ICC said in a statement. Pakistan has been forced to play most of its "home" games in the United Arab Emirates after gunmen fired on a bus carrying Sri Lanka's cricket team in 2009 with rifles, grenades and rockets, wounding six players and a British coach, and killing eight Pakistanis. — Reuters

CELTICS BEAT BULLS TO TAKE 3-2 SERIES LEAD

BOSTON: The Celtics and Bulls found another thing to argue about after Game 5 of their spirited first-round playoff series: Was Avery Bradley more impressive on offense, or on defense? "Everyone knows he's a good defender. Tonight, he got his offensive game going," Chicago's Dwyane Wade said after Bradley scored 24 points to lead Boston to a 108-97 victory and a 3-2 lead in the best-of-seven series. "You expect him to do what he does defensively, but we gave up 24 points to him tonight. He hurt us offensively tonight more than anything."

Isaiah Thomas also scored 24 for the Celtics, the top seed in the East. After the road team won each of the first four games, the Celtics won at home in Game 5 to earn a chance to eliminate the Bulls on Friday night in Chicago. A Bulls victory would force the series back to Boston for a decisive Game 7 on Sunday.

Al Horford had 21 points, nine assists and seven rebounds for the Celtics. Bradley's 24 points were a career playoff high, but after watching him hold Bulls star Jimmy Butler to 14 points - and just one foul shot - Celtics coach Brad Stevens praised Bradley's defense. "Jimmy Butler's a hard guy to guard. Dwyane Wade's a hard guy to guard. You're not going to stop those guys, but you just try to make it as hard as possible," Stevens said. "Avery ... has done a really good job."

Butler, who shot 23 free throws in Game 4 and made 19, was 0 for 1 on Wednesday. "I was trying to eliminate letting Jimmy Butler get to the free throw line. That was my goal this game, and I feel like I did it," Bradley said. Wade had 26 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists. But Wade and Robin Lopez were called for technical fouls 32 seconds apart with just under five minutes left, helping the Celtics to a 20-5 run that turned an 84-84 game into a 15-point Boston lead.

The Bulls cut it to nine before Horford got loose for a dunk, Wade missed a 3-pointer and then Horford fed Jae Crowder for a layup that made it 108-95 with 99 seconds to play. Despite the technical fouls, there was little of the tension that characterized Game 4, when Butler and Marcus Smart got in each other's

face on the court and continued the criticism in their postgame comments. The Celtics started slowly on their home court, making just one of their first nine shots to fall behind 12-4. Boston missed its first eight 3-point attempts before making three in a row at the end of the first quarter.

RONDO OUT

Rajon Rondo, who was the point guard on the 2008 Celtics team that won the fran-

chise's record 17th NBA title, did not play for the third straight game because of the broken thumb and strained ligament in his right wrist. He was on the court handling a basketball with his left hand before the game, then sat on the Bulls bench in a suit - this one with sleeves - and cheered on his teammates.

The Bulls fell to 0-3 without him in the series, with Wade largely taking over as point guard in Game 5. Bulls coach Fred Hoiberg made waves after Game 4 when he

questioned whether Thomas was getting away with carrying the ball when he dribbled. Thomas took exception with the suggestion, saying it was the way he'd dribbled his entire career and was no different than the style of other All-Stars such as LeBron James and Rondo. The final question to Hoiberg Wednesday was whether he'd had spotted any illegal dribbles from Thomas in the Game 5 loss. "No," he said, before walking out. —AP



BOSTON: Boston Celtics center Al Horford (42) slams a dunk against the Chicago Bulls during the fourth quarter of a first-round NBA playoff basketball game. —AP

LEBRON NOT SLOWING AS MINUTES INCREASE

INDEPENDENCE, Ohio: Except for his backpedaling hairline, LeBron James shows no visible signs of age. At 32, still in his prime, and still at the top of his game, he's defying time. "Benjamin Button," Cavaliers coach Tyronn Lue called him, referring to the fictional character who ages backward.

Following a regular season in which he averaged more minutes per game (37.8) than any player, James logged 43.7 per game during Cleveland's tougher-than-it-looked sweep over the Indiana Pacers in the first round of the playoffs. And as James and the defending champions await either Toronto or Milwaukee in the second round, James is taking advantage of the down time. Not that he might need it.

Lue spent much of the season defending his use of James, who in all honesty is really the one in control of when he sits or doesn't. At this point, Lue has given up worrying about resting the superstar. "I don't understand why people make a big deal out of his minutes," Lue said Wednesday. "He had a week off before the series started. We won four straight games and then he had a week off again. So next he might play 48 minutes. ... Bron today just said he feels worse when he doesn't play."

James wasn't available for interviews as the team gathered for the first time in two days at Cleveland

Clinic Courts, and it's likely that he won't speak to the media until the Cavs have a second-round opponent. But as has been the case for months, James' playing time was one of the prime topics presented to Lue, who believes that the four-time MVP's heavy workload during the regular season is what enables him to play at such high levels in the postseason.

Consider that James averaged 32.8 points, 9.8 rebounds and 9.0 assists, shot 54 percent from the field, went 9 of 20 on 3-pointers and led the Cavaliers to the biggest second-half comeback in league history during the series against Indiana, and it's easy to see why Lue wants to move past the minutes chatter. "With him playing the minutes he played during the course of the regular season, it has helped him in the playoffs," Lue said. "Now he is able to play those 42, 43 minutes. Because he's used to it."

His body can take it, so, I'm not worried about what outside people say. Unlike the regular season, when brutal travel schedules, back-to-backs and stretches of three games in four nights can wear players down, the postseason allows for recovery. Lue also thinks too many teams are allowing outside pressures to influence how they use players. —AP

BEAL AND WALL LEADS WIZARDS PAST HAWKS

WASHINGTON: John Wall figured the credit went to the down-the-stretch defense displayed by his Washington Wizards. Neither Dennis Schroder nor coach Mike Budenholzer found any flaws with the way their Atlanta Hawks handled things late. Either way, the odd manner in which Atlanta seemed to allow the final half-minute or so to slip away while trailing - not fouling Washington to try to extend things; passing around the ball, instead of shooting it, as the clock headed toward zero - left the Wizards on the verge of closing out the teams' Eastern Conference first-round playoff series. Back at home, and back in charge, Bradley Beal scored 27 points, and Wall added 20 points and 14 assists, leading Washington to a 103-99 victory in Game 5 on Wednesday night for a 3-2 series lead. "I thought they were going to play the foul game - or at least try to trap. But they let us run the clock down," Wall said, noting that he felt as if he and his teammates finished "with the best scrambling defense we had."

Schroder led the Hawks with 29 points, making a career high-tying five 3s, and 11 assists. But after his basket from beyond the arc pulled Atlanta within 101-99 with 70 seconds left, Wall responded with a 21-foot pull-up jumper. Neither team would score the rest of the way. "It was right there," Schroder said. "We've just got to be better in crunch time." A miss followed from Paul Millsap, who had 21 points and 11 rebounds, but after Wall's jumper was off the mark, the Hawks never managed to put the ball in the basket - including sort of fiddling around as if they didn't realize they were trailing by four. "We tried to get a clean look," Tim Hardaway Jr. said, "but they just did a good job of ... making it tough on us." Budenholzer said, "that's the aggressor." As it is, the series has been filled with physical play, referee whistles and smack talk, including a "Crybaby" accusation and a comparison to MMA fighting. Dwight Howard - who finally came to the fore in Game 4 with 16 points and 15 rebounds - didn't play much in the second half, picking up his fourth foul with 2 1/2 minutes left in the third quarter and his fifth off the ball with 8 1/2 minutes to go. —AP



AVONDALE: In this May 2, 2016, file photo, Jason Day, of Australia, hits a tee shot on the 17th hole during the final round of the PGA Zurich Classic golf tournament at TPC Louisiana. —AP

PGA STARS: NEW FORMAT BOOSTS FUN QUOTIENT

AVONDALE: It has the feel of a guys' weekend out in New Orleans for Bubba Watson, Jordan Spieth and a host of fellow PGA Tour stars at the new team event that the Zurich Classic has become. Watson expects the revamped format in the Big Easy, which debuts Thursday, to be a treat for fans and players - and good for golf. "For them to come up with this idea of showing the fun side of golf ... you're going to see a lot of smiles, a lot of laughing and a lot of enjoyment of the game," said Watson, who won the Zurich Classic in 2011, when it was a traditional, stroke-play event. Now there are 80 two-player teams, and the players got to choose their partners.

Apparently, few players performed an exhaustive analysis of which players' games might complement their own best on a two-man team at the Pete Dye-designed, par-72 TPC Louisiana course. In many cases, players paired up with friends - or family. "I think there was very little research and homework done compared to what you might think in creating these teams," said Spieth who teamed up with fellow Texan Ryan Palmer. "A lot of friends, and that's going to be enticing, too, to almost kind of feel like it's a little bit of a break."

Day, Fowler among favorites

Englishman Justin Rose, fresh off his second-place in the Masters, teamed with fellow European Henrik Stenson of Sweden. "If you don't get along, it's going to be a long four days out there," Stenson said. "And of course to team up with a player of Justin's caliber is hopefully going to make that journey a bit smoother." Rose, the 2015 Zurich Classic winner, joked that one reason he chose Stenson was because he's "very handsome," and complimented Stenson for wearing pink. Not to say it won't be competitive. The winning team takes home \$1.02 million per player, along with and 400 FedExCup each. Watson chose JB Holmes. The tandem of Jason Day and Rickie Fowler are among the favorites. Brooks Koepka, the 19th-ranked player in the world, chose his brother, Chase, who plays professionally in Europe and is making his PGA tour debut. Branden Grace is with fellow South African Louis Oosthuizen. The pair of Justin Thomas and Bud Cauley is made up of former Alabama players, while the Jason Dufner-Patton Kizzire duo played for Auburn. Defending Zurich Classic champion Brian Stuard is paired with Chris Stroud.

"How would you not want to be here for this event?" said Watson, who is playing in New Orleans for the first time since 2013, and who treated Holmes to a birthday dinner Tuesday night that included a magic show. "For (Zurich and the PGA Tour) to step out of the box and do something like this is pretty amazing." Here are some things to know about this year's Zurich Classic.

STRATEGY

In the first and third rounds, teams will alternate shots. In the second and final rounds, they'll take the best score per hole. That means strategies will change from round to round - more defensive when they alternate shots, more aggressive when they go with the best score.

BE THE BALL

During the first-and third, alternate-shot rounds, players have to agree on which ball they will use for each hole. The key elements that go into choosing golf balls tend to be things like compression, distance and rate of rotation. And while most balls are white, Watson has been known to use pink. Not this time, though, because doesn't want to throw off his teammate. "I only brought white balls," Watson said. "It does look different if you're not used to it." — AP

LARSSON SKATES OILERS PAST DUCKS IN WILD SERIES OPENER

ANAHEIM: For the first 45 minutes of their second-round series opener, the Edmonton Oilers showed they can match the Anaheim Ducks in a tight-checking, low-scoring grind of a playoff hockey game. When things got wild and frantic in the final minutes, the upstart Oilers showed they can hang with the best in the West in that sort of game, too. Defenseman Adam Larsson scored his second goal of the third period with 4:40 to play, and the Oilers blew a two-goal lead before beating the Ducks 5-3 on Wednesday night.

'Maturity has been underestimated'

Mark Letestu scored two power-play goals and Cam Talbot made 33 saves as Edmonton seized home-ice advantage from the Ducks with a four-goal final period. Two of those goals came from Larsson, the stay-at-home blueliner who scored only four goals in the Oilers' first 85 games this season. "It's really nice to see him get rewarded and get a couple of goals," Letestu said of Larsson, acquired by Edmonton in the trade of former No. 1 draft pick Taylor Hall to New Jersey. "That's not normally what he does for us."

Leon Draisaitl had two third-period assists and an empty-net goal for the Oilers, who don't appear to be feeling an ounce of intimidation in their first playoff appearance since 2006. Connor McDavid's club followed its ousting of the defending conference champion San Jose Sharks by sending the five-time

division champion Ducks to their first loss of the playoffs. "At times, our maturity has been underestimated," Letestu said. "This group has been through a lot this year, and it's starting to show." Game 2 is Friday night in Anaheim.

The most shocking development in the opener was the star turn by Larsson, who improbably poured in two goals in 7 1/2 minutes. After skating freely into the slot and converting a pass from Draisaitl with 11:57 left, he added the winner seven minutes later when he skated behind the net and cleverly threw it in front. The puck banked off Anaheim defenseman Josh Manson's skate and pinballed underneath John Gibson, who stopped 27 shots.

Good test

"You can see on the bench, we didn't panic" after Anaheim tied it, Larsson said. "We kept it going. We learned a lot during the last series, and we carried it over to this series." Jakob Silfverberg scored the tying goal with 9:13 to play, but the Ducks lost in regulation for the first time in 19 games since March 10. Patrick Eaves and Ryan Getzlaf also scored for Anaheim, which had won eight straight games.

The Ducks didn't give up a third-period goal during their entire first-round sweep of Calgary before getting shredded by the Oilers.

"It's a good test," said Getzlaf, who has seven points in five playoff games. "We've dealt with it properly in the last

little while here, and we expect nothing less out of our group. We're going to come to work tomorrow and be ready for the next one." A sold-out Honda Center could barely keep up when a tense 1-1 game morphed into a free-for-all as each team scored two goals apiece in a 4:24 span midway through the third. "I think the first two periods were more of a checking game," Draisaitl said. "And then both teams had a few breakdowns, and I think both teams capitalized on them."

Letestu scored his second power-play goal with 13:37 to play before Larsson put the Oilers up 3-1. The Ducks promptly sprung to life and attacked the net, with Eaves flipping home a rebound 85 seconds before Silfverberg tied it with his own rebound goal. "We're going to learn from it," Silverberg said. "We know we're not going to win every series 4-0. We know that now."

The Ducks had the past week off after sweeping the Flames, but both teams came out with a mid-series physical approach in the scoreless first period. All-Star center Ryan Kesler immediately gave McDavid a taste of what's ahead when he skated alongside the Edmonton captain in the neutral zone, randomly whacking McDavid with his stick while the puck was nowhere close. All-Star defenseman Cam Fowler returned to the Ducks' lineup after missing six games over the previous three weeks due to an unpenalized knee-on-knee hit by Calgary captain Mark Giordano. — AP



ANAHEIM: Edmonton Oilers center David Desharnais, left, vies for the puck with Anaheim Ducks center Antoine Vermette during the first period in Game 1 of a second-round NHL hockey Stanley Cup playoff series. —AP



MUNICH: Dortmund's Ousmane Dembele, center, celebrates after scoring his side's third goal during the German Soccer Cup semifinal match between FC Bayern Munich and Borussia Dortmund at the Allianz Arena stadium. —AP

DORTMUND'S DEMBELE STUNS BAYERN IN GERMAN CUP SEMI

MUNICH: Borussia Dortmund fought back to stun bitter rivals Bayern Munich 3-2 on Wednesday to reach the German Cup final and shatter the Bavarian giants' dreams of the double. A brilliant strike from Ousmane Dembele 15 minutes from the end settled the semi-final tie at Munich's Allianz Arena which had seen Dortmund trail 2-1 at half-time. "This is the biggest moment of my career with Dortmund. It's hard to come to Munich and get a win," beamed Dembele, 19, who only joined Borussia for the start of the season.

The result is a dramatic turn-around for Thomas Tuchel's Dortmund who were hammered 4-1 by runaway leaders Bayern in Munich in the Bundesliga just three weeks ago. "We came from 2-1 down and still won - that's crazy," beamed Tuchel. "We had completely written off our 4-1 defeat in the league. We played well for 20 minutes and then we let it slip. "After the break, we kept improving and improving, from the 60th minute we were very good. We certainly had a bit of luck too."

The loss is a disaster for Bayern's coach Carlo Ancelotti following the Bavarian giants' Champions League quarter-final exit at the hands of Real Madrid. The cup exit in Munich leaves Bayern winless in their last five games following back-to-back losses to Real, plus draws with Mainz and Leverkusen in the league. Ancelotti's Bayern are eight points clear in the Bundesliga with four games left. However, their dreams of repeating last season's league and cup double, under Ancelotti's predecessor Pep Guardiola, are over.

Too early to talk

"I think it's too early to talk about the season, we're still trying to win the Bundesliga," said Ancelotti when asked about the down-turn in fortunes this April. "We're disappointed, we had our chances to go 3-1 up. "This is not a good moment, but we have to focus on the Bundesliga." In a repeat of last year's final at Berlin's Olympic Stadium, which Bayern won in a penalty shoot-out, Marco Reus put Dortmund ahead after 19 minutes following a mistake by Munich's Javi Martinez.

The Spanish international's lazy back pass was snapped up by Dortmund midfielder Raphael Guerreiro, whose shot hit the post and Reus drilled the rebound. Martinez made amends by equalizing with a header nine minutes later before Mats Hummels put Bayern 2-1 ahead at half-time. Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang made it 2-2 on 69 minutes when he headed home a superb Dembele cross. That paved the way for the French teenager to hit the winner with a curling left-foot shot to break Bayern's hearts.

"That is a huge disappointment," said Bayern's stunned captain Philipp Lahm. "You could see when it was 2-2 that we really wanted to reach the final. We didn't play well in the first 15 minutes, but then we improved. First, we have to absorb this setback." Dortmund will play in a fourth consecutive final on May 27, when they face Eintracht Frankfurt, who reached the final on Tuesday with a penalty shoot-out win over Borussia Moenchengladbach. —AFP

CORRUPTION TRIAL OPENS FOR EX-DINAMO ZAGREB BOSS

ZAGREB: Former Dinamo Zagreb chairman Zdravko Mamic pleaded not guilty yesterday to multi-million euro corruption charges at the start of his trial before a local court, labeling them a "hideous lie". Mamic is considered the most powerful figure in Croatian football and his trial is a major one for the country's sport, already struggling with hooliganism and poor infrastructure. Mamic was charged last year for abuse of power and bribery along with three others—his brother and former Dinamo Zagreb coach Zoran Mamic, former club director Damir Vrbancic, and a tax inspector.

Their alleged offences cost the Croatian champions nearly 116 million kunas (15.6 million euros, \$16.7 million), and cost the state 12 million kunas, according to the indictment. Most of the money—more than 12 million euros—was illegally acquired by the Mamic brothers, said the indictment. The cash was allegedly embezzled through fictitious deals related to player transfers. "I don't understand the indictment... it is the most disgusting and the most hideous lie," Mamic told the tribunal in the eastern town of Osijek, quoted by N1 regional television.

Local media said the trial is being held in Osijek in a bid to avoid the magnate's influence on judges in Zagreb, with some of whom he allegedly has close ties. Vrbancic and the tax inspector also pleaded not guilty, while Zoran Mamic did not appear before the tribunal. Two international stars—Real Madrid midfielder Luka Modric and defender Dejan Lovren of Liverpool—will appear as witnesses during the trial, according to local media. The process is seen as crucial for Croatian football, which is known for the successes of its national squad but also for its hooligans, who are among Europe's most notorious. Croatia and its major clubs like Dinamo have already been hit with a series of FIFA and UEFA sanctions over the issue. —AFP

MADRID HIT DEPORTIVO FOR SIX

BARCELONA: Real Madrid again made light of the absence of Cristiano Ronaldo as they crushed Deportivo la Coruna 6-2 to maintain the upper hand in the La Liga title race on Wednesday. Madrid and Barcelona are locked on 78 points at the top of the table, but Real have a game in hand over their title rivals. Barca remain top thanks to their better head-to-head record as Lionel Messi struck twice to relegate Osasuna in a 7-1 thrashing.

Madrid boss Zinedine Zidane made nine changes in all from the side that lost 3-2 to Barca on Sunday to reignite the title race. Ronaldo, Karim Benzema and the injured Gareth Bale were left out the Madrid squad for a third straight away league game, but again their absence wasn't missed. "It is the hardest job for a coach. When they play like they did today and then maybe they won't play in the next game," said Zidane. "We know I have a phenomenal group of players and all of them are ready for the challenge between now and the end of the season."

Alvaro Morata smashed home at the near post to give the visitors the perfect start after less than a minute. James Rodriguez then added a second from Lucas Vazquez's cross as Madrid threatened to run riot inside the first 20 minutes. However, the European champions have now kept just one clean sheet in their last 15 games and their defence was breached once more when Florin Andone turned home Gael Kakuta's mishit shot 10 minutes before half-time.

Vazquez, though, restored Real's two-goal lead before half-time and Zidane's men could even have reached double figures in a dominant second period. Morata unselfishly teed up Rodriguez for his second of the night before Isco sealed a stunning individual display by smashing home 13 minutes from time. Joselu got another goal back for Deportivo with a fine looping header, but fittingly Real had the final say when Casemiro's piledriver slipped under Deportivo 'keeper Przemyslaw Tyton.

Valencia test

Real Madrid's bid for a first La Liga title in five years will be put to test on Saturday when they host Valencia, who won their earlier meeting in the season. A Cristiano Ronaldo double saw Madrid squeak past them 3-2 on the penultimate day of last season, but that was Real's first victory over Valencia either home or away in the league since 2013. A largely second-string Madrid side, missing the rested Ronaldo, Karim Benzema, Toni Kroos and without the suspended Sergio Ramos, recorded an impressive 6-2 victory away to Deportivo La Coruna on Wednesday.

Coach Zinedine Zidane admitted that he has some big decisions to make regarding team selection for the business end of the season. "For me there's not a first and second choice side; they all show their importance when they have the chance. We'll see about Saturday and then the Champions League after that," he said. "I must pick a side and it's true that I'll tell some of them after that performance that they won't be playing. —Agencies

DE ROON STRIKE GIVES BORO HOPE

MIDDLESBROUGH: Marten de Roon's early strike earned Middlesbrough a 1-0 win over Premier League basement club Sunderland on Wednesday that kept their faint hopes of survival flickering. The Dutch midfielder scored for the second time in four appearances to earn Boro their first win in 17 games, since a 3-0 victory over Swansea City on December 17. It took Steve Agnew's side to within six points of safety with four games of the season remaining. But Boro remain second from bottom and host Manchester City on Sunday before visiting league leaders Chelsea the following weekend.

Defeat completed a wretched day for Sunderland manager David Moyes, who has been charged by England's Football Association for telling a female reporter she might "get a slap". His side remains 12 points adrift of safety at the foot of the standings and in need of a sporting miracle to avoid slipping into the Championship. Sunderland were unchanged from their 2-2 draw at home to West Ham United and made a positive start, but Boro went in front from their first attack in the eighth minute.

Adam Clayton's long ball found De Roon, who stabbed a shot between the legs of visiting goalkeeper Jordan Pickford. Pickford was called into action again in the 20th minute, saving with his feet after Stewart Downing had been invited to shoot. Short of a parry from Didier N'Dong's powerful shot, Boro goalkeeper Brad Guzan was a virtual spectator at the other end. There was a touching moment in the 44th minute as fans of both teams united for a standing ovation in memory of former Boro defender Ugo Ehiogu, who died of a heart attack last week aged 44. Sunderland upped their game in the second half, Wahbi Khazri working Guzan from a free-kick, but it was to prove yet another night when a major opportunity passed them by. —AFP

WENGER SOOTHED BY THE SIMPLICITY OF TOP 4 SPOT

LONDON: Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger said his side know exactly what they must do in the Champions League qualification race after watching them gain a 1-0 win over Leicester City. With time slipping away at the Emirates Stadium on Wednesday, Wenger threw on Danny Welbeck and Olivier Giroud to finish with four strikers on the pitch. His side eventually prevailed courtesy of a late own goal by Robert Huth.

Arsenal remain outside the Champions League places, but Wenger said: "We have one advantage—the advantage of clarity. 'We have to win our games, so that's why we cannot be happy with a 0-0. 'We absolutely have to take a gamble to try and win the game at any cost. We took the initiative tonight.'" With only 72 hours to recover from Sunday's gruelling FA Cup semi-final extra-time victory over Manchester City, Wenger praised the resilience of his players. "We lacked penetration and a change of pace," he told reporters.

"You could see that we had some heavy legs and we lacked a bit of speed in our game to get Leicester out of position. 'They defend well, but in the end I think the win rewards the team which took the initiative during the game. 'Let's not forget as well that we played on Sunday afternoon. Leicester didn't play at all over the weekend, so we knew we had a little handicap on that front.'"

Wenger promised Arsenal will approach Sunday's north London derby at Tottenham Hotspur purely as another step towards Champions League qualification, not a chance to halt their rivals' title charge. "We play for us," said the Frenchman, whose future at Arsenal remains up in the air. "In life you work for your own achievements, not for those of others." Wenger played down a touchline incident between Alexis Sanchez and Christian Fuchs that occurred shortly after Nacho Monreal's wayward 85th-minute shot had deflected in off Huth for the decisive goal.

Histrionics

Sanchez twice prevented Fuchs from taking a long throw-in by standing too close to the touchline. Infuriated, Leicester's Austria international threw the ball into Sanchez's shoulder, only for the Chilean to fall to the ground clutching his face. Wenger said: "I think Alexis didn't know that he had to be further away. As well, the referee didn't tell him that he had to move away so he thought he was in the right position. —AFP



MOSCOW: A picture taken on October 29, 2016 shows Spartak Moscow supporters burning flares during the Russian Premier League football match between Spartak Moscow and CSKA. —AFP

RED DAY: PEOPLE VS THE ARMY IN SPARTAK-CSKA MOSCOW DERBY

MOSCOW: One club represented the mighty Soviet Red Army, the other was named after an ancient gladiator-slave—now Moscow's CSKA and Spartak fight out one of the fiercest rivalries in Russian football. The two teams face off Sunday in a furious city derby that comes with added spice this year: Spartak are top of the Russian Premier League and chasing their first title in 16 years, while CSKA are the reigning champions and are second.

In the stands the chants and flares of the rival fans will be the latest chapter in a profound enmity that dates back to the Soviet era when the teams stood for different segments of society: the ordinary people and the army. Founded in 1922 by Nikolai Starostin, the eldest of four football-loving brothers, Spartak are Russia's most successful and popular team with 34 league and cup titles. Named after Spartacus, the gladiator who led a slave uprising against Rome, the club got backing from factory workers and prided itself on its independence from the authorities.

Meanwhile CSKA traditionally had the formidable muscle of the armed forces behind it and became a showcase for the sporting power of the Soviet Union. "It came to be that Spartak was the people's team," defender Vagiz Khidiyatullin, who played for both sides in the 1970s and 80s, told AFP. But at CSKA "when a military officer would come in, all of us players had to stand to attention".

Purges and poaching

For Spartak-nicknamed "meat" because of ties to a packing union—not having the backing of one of the USSR's powerful security bodies was often a major problem. In the 1940s the Starostin brothers were arrested and sent to labour camps in Siberia on the orders of secret police boss Lavrenty Beria, whose feared organisation stood behind Dinamo Moscow. In contrast, CSKA had a useful advantage over their rivals: they could poach players by making them do compulsory service in the army.

"In terms of squad selection, CSKA was one of the best," Khidiyatullin, who played for CSKA from 1981 to 1983 after four seasons with Spartak, told AFP. "They had the possi-

bility of recruiting players by taking them into the army." Robert Edelman, an expert on Soviet football at the University of California at San Diego, said that for many in the Soviet era, supporting Spartak was seen as a subtle form of standing up to the system, even if they did not actively oppose it.

"I think the fans who are 40 and over probably still partake of the Spartak Kool-aid or the ideology that it was a civilian team, it was a more humane way of being Soviet," he said. "I don't think they were dissidents in any way, shape or form." And the state's influence could still certainly be felt at Spartak, with the all-powerful security agencies keeping a close eye on players to stop them defecting when they played matches abroad. "We always travelled with chekists," Khidiyatullin said, using a Soviet-era term for members of the KGB security service. "They weren't noticeable but they were always close by."

Winds of change

After the collapse of the USSR in 1991 Russian football underwent the same seismic shifts as society and the old ties weakened. The Spartak-CSKA rivalry remained strong but it no longer revolved around the power struggles in Soviet society. Spartak dominated the Russian league in the 1990s, winning all but one league title between 1992 and 2001, but have not finished first since then.

Meanwhile, as their cross-town rivals dropped off, CSKA went on to stamp their own authority, scooping six league titles. Radical changes in the Russian game also saw problems such as racism and hooliganism, which had been kept under wraps during the Soviet period, come into the rivalry. "Both teams now have fairly strong levels of racism among their following, which you would not have seen exhibited, at least overtly, in any way during the Soviet period," Edelman said. "Both teams have hooligan elements, probably Spartak more so." During their last match the referee was forced to stop play after flares tossed in the stands filled Spartak's Otkrytie Arena, which will be a World Cup venue in 2018, with smoke. —AFP

FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 2017

Sports

BOSTON: Avery Bradley #0 of the Boston Celtics takes a shot over Jimmy Butler #21 of the Chicago Bulls during the third quarter of Game Five of the Eastern Conference Quarterfinals at TD Garden. —AFP

CELTICS BEAT
BULLS TO
TAKE 3-2
SERIES LEAD

Page 44