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Kurdistan takes measures to ensure safe referendum

Irbil prosthetic center launches Kuwait-funded ward

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IRBIL: A Kuwaiti media delegation tours a Kuwait-funded ward at a prosthetic medical center in the capital of Iraq's Kurdistan region. The delegation includes Editor-in-Chief of Kuwait Times Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan, Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Editor-in-Chief Saad Al-Ali, Editor-in-Chief of Al-Anbaa Yousef Al-Marzouq, Kuwait Journalists Association Trustee Adnan Al-Rashed and KUNA reporter in Kurdistan Mukhlis Khishnaw. — KUNA

IRBIL: Security authorities in Iraq's Kurdistan have taken measures to ensure safety and stability during the referendum on the region's independence set for Sept 25, 2017. The remarks were made by Kurdish Minister of Interior Karim Sinjari during his meeting with a Kuwaiti media delegation late Sunday. Security authorities have arrested about 1,700 members of the so-called Islamic State (IS) who were hiding among displaced Iraqis in the region's refugee camps, he noted. Although the city of Mosul was liberated from IS' control, there are still some terrorist cells in Mosul that belong to the group, Sinjari said.

The Kuwaiti delegation also met with the head of the foreign affairs department at Kurdistan's government Falah Mustafa, who stressed the importance of boosting cooperation between his region and Kuwait on all levels, mainly investment. Mustafa also addressed the regional and international impact of the upcoming referendum's results.

The Kuwaiti delegation includes KUNA's Editor-in-Chief Saad Al-Ali, Editor-in-Chief of Al-Anbaa daily Yousef Al-Marzouq, Editor-in-Chief of Kuwait Times Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan and Trustee of Kuwait Journalists Association Adnan Al-Rashed.

Meanwhile, a Kuwait-funded ward at a prosthetic medical center in Irbil in Iraq's Kurdistan region was launched to treat those whose limbs were amputated in the fight against IS. Speaking on the occasion, head of the center Dr Ghassan Al-Alousy told KUNA that the hospital receives about eight patients of all ages daily, most of them with severed feet or legs. After placing prosthetics, the patients receive physical therapy to allow them to adjust to their new artificial limbs, he noted.

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5-year-old girl beaten to death by mom, lover

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: A 5-year-old girl was killed by her mother and her boyfriend. Police received a call about a girl who died after falling from a height in Qusour. Detectives and paramedics dispatched to the scene noticed some bruises on the child's body, so they called forensic experts. The body was then referred to the coroner.

When her mother, a divorcee, was questioned, she confessed that she was with her boyfriend. They repeatedly beat the girl because she was disturbing them, leading to her death. The source said the boyfriend took the mother and the girl's body to their car, then the mother went home and called police, claiming the girl had fallen, but bruises on her body indicated otherwise. The mother's boyfriend was arrested at dawn yesterday.

News in brief

Kuwait rejects 'untrue' Asharq Al-Awsat ban

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Information Ministry yesterday rejected social media rumors that it prevented the distribution of influential UK-based newspaper Asharq Al-Awsat as "untrue and contrary to truth". In a statement, the ministry underlined that it did not ban any of the Saudi private-owned daily's editions in Kuwait. Ministry officials "usually carry out routine procedures for newspapers that arrive in Kuwait from abroad", the statement explained. The ministry's assistant undersecretary for press and publications Khaled Al-Rashidi emphasizes that the newspaper is "being sold across shops and has not been banned".

Turkish troops hold exercises in Qatar

DOHA: Qatar held joint military exercises with Turkish troops yesterday, Qatari media reported, showcasing their strategic alliance two months into a boycott by Arab neighbors which accuse Doha of supporting terrorism. The maneuvers are aimed at preparing Qatar's armed forces to defend "vital economic, strategic and infrastructure facilities," state-owned newspaper Al-Sharq reported.

Saudi billionaire to invest $800m in Egypt tourism

CAIRO: Saudi Arabian billionaire Prince Alwaleed bin Talal is to invest more than $800 million in hotels in Egypt, the investment ministry in Cairo said yesterday. The announcement came after parliament in May adopted a new law aimed at attracting foreign investment as the authorities seek to reinvigorate the North African country's struggling economy. The ministry said in a statement that Bin Talal told Investment Minister Sahar Nasr in the Red Sea resort of Sharm El-Sheikh that he would invest in hotels in several locations.

Saudis turn themselves in over attacks: Ministry

RIYADH: Three Saudi Arabians wanted in connection with protests, unrest and attacks on police in the Shiite-majority eastern district of Qatif turned themselves in yesterday, the interior ministry said. The three men were on a "list of 23 fugitives wanted for crimes" in Qatif, the ministry said in a statement carried by the official SPA news agency. The statement also warned that people who "harbor or conceal" any suspects "could face consequences".

Israel to strip Arab attacker of citizenship for first time

JERUSALEM: An Israeli court has decided to strip an Arab Israeli attacker of his citizenship, legal sources said yesterday, in what a rights group said was the first ruling of its kind. The Haifa district court decided to strip Alla Zayud of his citizenship Sunday by applying a 2008 law that allows the interior ministry to deprive of their nationality those involved in "terrorist activities", the sources said. Adalah, an Arab Israeli rights group, said it was the first court decision of its kind. The 22-year-old, from Umm al-Fahm in northern Israel was sentenced to 25 years in jail in June 2016. His mother is an Israeli citizen while his father is a Palestinian with permanent resi-

Ali bowls England to S Africa series win PAGE 16

Iran inks biggest-ever car deal with Renault PAGE 17

Jordan king backs Palestinian leader

RIYADH: Envoy of HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, First Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah (left) delivers a letter from the Amir to Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud. The letter is related to the latest regional and international developments and issues of mutual interest. It was handed to Saudi Deputy King Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud (right). The envoy later headed to Egypt to deliver a written letter from HH the Amir to Egyptian President Abdelfattah Al-Sisi. — KUNA

RAMALLAH: Jordan's King Abdullah II offered support to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas during a rare visit yesterday to the occupied West Bank following tensions with Israel over a flashpoint Jerusalem holy site. Abdullah's first trip to the West Bank in five years was seen as a message to Israel and the United States over the sensitive Al-Aqsa mosque compound and the stalled peace process. It came less than two weeks after the end of a standoff at the holy site over new security measures, including metal detectors, imposed by Israel following an attack that killed two policemen.

Abdullah stressed to Abbas "the full Jordanian support for the legitimate rights of its brothers the Palestinian people and support for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with its capital in east Jerusalem", a statement from Jordan's royal palace said. He backed the need to protect Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa mosque compound, warning Israeli attempts to change the status quo - under which Jordan is custodian of the site and Jewish prayer is forbidden - "would have negative consequences for the whole region".

The Al-Aqsa compound is also holy to Jews, who refer to it as the Temple Mount as it is believed to be on the site of the first and second Jewish Temples, the latter of which was destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD. Abdullah also "called for the commitment of US President Donald Trump to work to realise peace between Palestinians and Israelis". The king flew by helicopter to Ramallah and a red carpet welcome from Abbas. He returned to Jordan after a meeting that lasted around an hour and a half. The king did not meet any Israeli officials.

Jordan reacted angrily last month to the new security measures at the mosque compound, which sparked several days of protests and clashes in Jerusalem's Old City, the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Palestinian foreign minister Riyad Al-Malki told reporters that Abbas and Abdullah yesterday discussed "direct Israeli attacks on the Al-Aqsa mosque". Tensions were exacerbated on July 23 when an Israeli security guard shot dead two Jordanians at the Israeli embassy compound in Amman. One of the two men attacked the Israeli with a screwdriver, and the other was apparently shot dead by accident, Israeli officials said.

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RAMALLAH: Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas (right) meets Jordan's King Abdullah II at his office in this West Bank city yesterday. — AP

More Syrian child brides in Jordan amid poverty

MAFRAQ, Jordan: Married at 15 and divorced at 16, a Syrian teen says she regrets having said yes to a handsome suitor - a stranger who turned into an abusive husband. Yet the reasons that transformed her into a child bride have become more prevalent among Syrians who live in Jordanian exile because of a six-year-old civil war back home. More families marry off daughters to ease the financial burden or say marriage is the way to protect the "honor" of girls seen as vulnerable outside their homeland.

Figures from Jordan's population census document the long suspected increase for the first time. In 2015, brides between the ages of 13 and 17 made up almost 44 percent of all Syrian females in Jordan getting married that year, compared to 33 percent in 2010. With Syrians expected to remain in exile for years, it's a harmful trend for refugees and their overburdened host country, UN and Jordanian officials say.

More Syrian girls will lose out on education, since most child brides drop out of school. They typically marry fellow Syrians who are just a few years older, often without a steady job - a constellation that helps perpetuate poverty. And they will likely have more children than those who marry as adults, driving up Jordan's fertility rate. "This means we will have more people, more than the government of Jordan can afford," said Maysoon Al-Zoabi, secretary general of Jordan's Higher Population Council.

The figures on early marriage were drawn from Jordan's Nov 2015 census and compiled in a new study. The census counted 9.5 million people living in Jordan, including 2.9 million non-Jordanians. Among the foreigners were 1.265 million Syrians - or double the number of refugees

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KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah reads a letter from Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, delivered by Algerian Foreign Minister Abdulqader Musahel. —KUNA

First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with Algerian Foreign Minister Abdulqader Musahel.

Algeria reiterates support to Amir's Gulf efforts

KUWAIT: Algeria has reaffirmed support to the ongoing mediation efforts led by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to end the Gulf crisis. During a meeting with His Highness the Amir yesterday, the visiting Algerian Foreign Minister Abdulqader Musahel said he delivered a "strong message" on Algeria's support to Kuwait's efforts to "reunite the brothers in the GCC." It is a message of backing to His Highness the Amir's initiative, Musahel said, noting that the Algerians are optimistic about Sheikh Sabah's success in the mission thanks to his experience and sagacity, as "a man of peace."

"(Arabs) are now in more dire need than ever to reunite and cooperate," amid the crises in Syria, Libya, Iraq and Yemen, "to speak in one voice and defend our interests, as we own the will and the capabilities to solve our problems on our own, no need for foreign interference," he said in a press statement. He stressed that Algeria and Kuwait share a policy of refraining from interfering in others' affairs, as "we accept no interference in ours."

Meanwhile, Musahel said he had handed His Highness the Amir a letter from President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, on bilateral ties the latest regional and international developments. The Algerian chief diplomat noted that he benefited a lot from His Highness the Amir's analysis, either on the distinguished bilateral ties or the developments on the Arab scene.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with Algerian Foreign Minister Abdulqader Musahel.

He said that he also reiterated Algeria's readiness to "deepen and broaden bilateral cooperation" and to carry on with consultations on issues of common concern, both on the events in the Arab region or on the threats to the two countries' peace and security, with violent extremism and terrorism on top.

Earlier yesterday, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received the Algerian Minister of Foreign Affairs, in presence of First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. The meeting was attended by Director of His Highness the Prime Minister's Diwan Sheikha Etemad Al-Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Assistant Foreign Minister and Office Director for the First Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Ambassador Dr Sheikh Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah and Assistant Foreign Minister for the Arab World Affairs Ambassador Aziz Al-Daihani.

On Sunday, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled and his Algerian counterpart discussed means of enhancing bilateral relations, as well as the latest developments on both regional and international arenas. The meeting was attended by Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah, Assistant Foreign Minister for the First Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister's Office Ambassador Dr Sheikh Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, Assistant Foreign Minister for Protocols Ambassador Dhari Al-Ajran, Assistant Foreign Minister for Deputy Foreign Minister's office Ambassador Ayham Al-Omar, Assistant Foreign Minister for the Arab World Affairs Ambassador Aziz Al-Daihani and a number of senior officials at the ministry. —KUNA

IRBIL: Head of Foreign Affairs Department at Kurdistan's government Falah Mustafa meets with the Kuwaiti media delegation. —KUNA

Kurdish Minister of Interior Karim Sinjari meets with the Kuwaiti media delegation.

Members of the Kuwaiti media delegation tour a Kuwait-funded ward at a prosthetic medical center in Irbil.

KJA Trustee Adnan Al-Rashed is seen with a child at a Kuwait-funded ward at a prosthetic medical center in Irbil.

Kurdistan takes measures...

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Kuwait's Al-Najat Charity provided donations to treat over 100 Iraqis in need of artificial limbs at the center.

Sinjari noted that his region received over 35,000 injured people during the battle of Mosul. Due to the large numbers of those in need for medical care, hospitals suffered a shortage of necessary items and medicines, especially anesthesia to perform surgeries, he explained. The official added that Kuwait immediately sent medical aid to face the growing numbers of patients.

The inauguration was attended by members of the Kuwaiti media delegation. Kuwait is continuously providing medical aid to displaced Iraqis in Irbil, sending medicines, medical equipment and ambulances. The country also funded the establishment of five medical centers in camps inside Irbil and Dohuk. Moreover, Kuwait funded the treatment of over 500 Iraqis who needed different surgeries. — KUNA

Cabinet prods media's role in national unity protection

Nod to GCC value added tax

KUWAIT: The Kuwaiti Cabinet yesterday called on local mass media to live up to their due national responsibilities by helping in protecting and safeguarding national unity. The call came during the cabinet's routine weekly meeting held at Bayan Palace under chairmanship of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

The cabinet asked mass media to fend off reporting anything that could trigger off tensions or divisions in the society, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Information Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah said in a statement following the meeting.

However, the cabinet applauded the sincere efforts of the Interior Ministry and its personnel to safeguard national security, safety and stability, along with their security measures nationwide to collar those convicted in the Al-Abdali terror cell, the minister said.

Kuwaiti citizens and residents were also urged to work with the Interior Ministry in its efforts to thwart any bid to undermine the country's security and stability amid the critical regional circumstances, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah added.

Amir's delegation

At the onset of the meeting, the cabinet was notified of the delegation that will accompany His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah during his official visit to Washington on September 6. The delegation includes Deputy Chief of the Kuwait National Guard Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Anas Al-Saleh, in addition to senior officials of the Amiri Diwan, and other relevant bodies. Security and a media teams are also included.

Then, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah briefed the ministers on the outcome of the recent visit to Kuwait by Minister in Charge of Foreign Affairs in Oman Dr Yusuf Bin Alawi. During the visit, the Omani minister held talks with His Highness the Amir on Kuwait's mediation efforts to contain and solve the Gulf crisis, besides the latest relevant developments, in addition to bilateral fraternal ties.

Meanwhile, the ministers approved a draft bill, one allowing the government to conduct public loans and financing from the local and the international markets, with the aim of issuing the tools of public after October 2017, the time set by the present law. Another draft bill was also approved on amending Article 29 of the of Law 32 of 1967 regarding the army.

Value Added Tax

Also today, the cabinet gave the thumbs up to draft bills approving the GCC Unified Selective Excise Tax, the GCC unified Value Added Tax (VAT) and the statute of the GCC Economic Judiciary Commission.

The ministers consented draft bills approving a legal and judicial agreement regarding the civil, commercial, personal status and penal articles with Egypt, and protocols for amending two accords to avoid tax evasion and double taxation on income with India and Brunei.

The cabinet also approved a draft bill on a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on security cooperation with Iraq. All the draft bills approved yesterday have been referred to His Highness the Amir, to find their way later to the National Assembly.

The ministers approved a draft decree on two protocols for amending Articles 50 A and 56 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation signed in October 2016. They also approved other draft decrees on a host of cooperation MoUs and agreements with some world countries.

These include a MoU for cooperation in Islamic affairs with Turkey; an agreement for technical and cultural cooperation with Malta; two MoUs on countering financing of terrorism, and cooperation in higher education and scientific research with Brunei; an economic and technical cooperation agreement with Slovakia; a MoU for cooperation in water management with Hungary; an economic and technical cooperation agreement with Albania's government; and finally an agreement on air services with Belize. All the draft bills have been referred to His Highness the Amir, to be later sent to the National Assembly. Concluding the weekly routine meeting, the cabinet reviewed the political developments on the Arab and international scenes. —KUNA

KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah chairs the cabinet's meeting yesterday. —KUNA

Man arrested with drugs in Ahmadi home

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Drugs Control General Department arrested a citizen with seven kilograms of marijuana. Tips were received about the man trading in drugs, so investigations were conducted and he was arrested in his Ahmadi home. He confessed the drugs belonged to him and he traded in it.

Traffic

The traffic department carried out several traffic campaigns in all governorates from July 23 till July 29, resulting in issuing 32,555 citations, impounding 1,052 vehicles and two motorbikes and arresting 64 persons, while five expats were sent for deportation for driving without a license.

Public sector remains most attractive for citizens: Minister

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Social Affairs Minister Hind Al-Sabeeh said that economic circumstances that accompanied the drop in oil prices and the large gap in incentives between the public and private sectors have increased demand to work in the public sector. She said in an answer to a parliamentary question that the Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital is on the 2016/2017 annual plan as construction work extended beyond the 2015/2016 annual plan. Sabeeh said the development plan aims at creating 6,601 additional jobs, which was not totally fulfilled due to the economic circumstances.

Meanwhile, MP Khalid Al-Otaibi expressed regret over developments at the Social Affairs Ministry, adding that the minister is taking the ministry from bad to worse. He rejected the central policy and reducing officials' authorities. "We warned against the presence of non-cooperative ministers," the lawmaker said, and asked for a wide-ranging government change so that ministers' performance is up to the ambitions of MPs and the people. He said he rejected the minister's policy at the disabled authority with regards to 'humiliating citizens' and malicious action towards their rights. Furthermore, he accused the minister of still wanting to harm unions and deliberately stopped approvals of unions and interfered in their work, forcing them to resort to the judiciary.

Minister Hind Al-Sabeeh

MP Khalid Al-Otaibi

4,000 bedoons

Parliamentary sources said the law to naturalize 4,000 bedoons at the interior and defense committee will not be of top priority at the start of the next parliamentary term. Sources said the committee told MPs that its stand has not changed, which means the law will not pass without government approval.

Ministry's support

Assistant undersecretary for the television sector at the information ministry Majeed Al-Jazzaf said the ministry has approved a future plan to develop the human element "administratively, technically and financially" and upgrade systems. He said that more than 2,250 employees at the sector enjoy the ministry's support and more than 90 percent of programs were reduced from 90 to 30 minutes to avoid burdening them. He said that 1,200 contracted employees were terminated to rely on ministry employees.

KFSD denies fire engine used in IS video

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) denied rumors speculating that one of its vehicles appeared in a video clip posted recently online by the Islamic State (IS) terrorist group. KFSD explained in a statement yesterday that all of its vehicles are closely monitored and their movements are known and recorded. It said that legal action has been taken to arrest the person behind spreading the rumors.

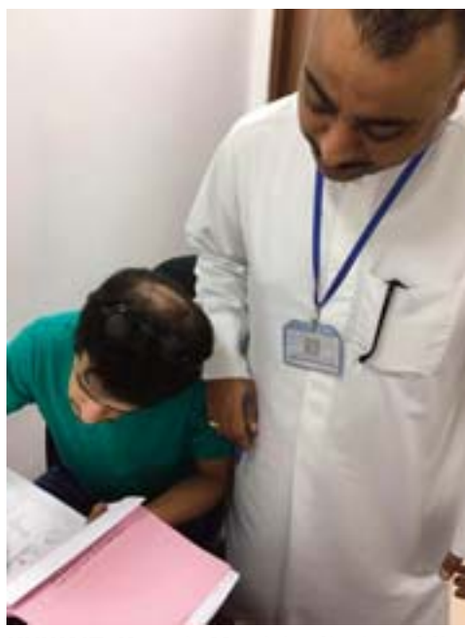
Corrupt officials

Spokeswoman of the parliament's public facilities committee MP Majid Al-Mutairi said the Ministry of Public Works (MPW) has not held corrupt officials and contractors to account, adding that Minister Abdurrahman Al-Mutawa did not take deterrent actions towards corrupt contractors, and warned him that he will 'pay the price' for appeasing them. He said the committee continues its investigations in the flooding of the Mangaf tunnel and other projects that witnessed similar incidents.

Anti-Corruption

The Public Anti-Corruption Authority said it sent several supervisors and employees to the public prosecution following two complaints submitted to the authority. The charges include forgery in official documents and receiving illegal money, among others.

SANAA: The 'Kuwait By Your Side' charity campaign launched yesterday a street cleaning campaign at Yemen's Taiz Governorate, with the aim of removing 6,480 square meters of waste. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Kuwait Municipality's public relations department said Hawally municipality inspection and municipal services follow-up department carried out a campaign resulting in issuing 44 citations for various food-related violations, operating without a health certificate and commencing activities prior to municipality approval. Meanwhile, the Capital branch issued 129 warnings and removed 71 encroachments in Jaber Al-Ahmad and northwest Sulaibikhat. —By Hanan Al-Saadoun

In Brief

Diwan thanks mourners

KUWAIT: On behalf of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Amiri Diwan Sunday thanked citizens and residents for condolences over the death of late Sheikh Jaber Al-Ali Al-Salem Al-Sabah's widow, Suad Hamad Al-Humaidhi. — KUNA

Amir congratulates Pakistani Premier

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable yesterday to newly-appointed Pakistani Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi after being constitutionally sworn in. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables to Abbasi. — KUNA

Amir congratulates Rwandan President

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations yesterday to Rwanda's President Paul Kagame on his re-election. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables. — KUNA

Photo of the day

KUWAIT: Steppe Eagle in flight, spotted in Al-Abraq area in Kuwait's desert. — KUNA

Ministry of Health conducts orientation meeting for pilgrims

Health Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for Legal Affairs Salman Al-Haifi

Head of the information office at the Health Ministry Dr Ghalia Al-Mutairi

KUWAIT: Health Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for Legal Affairs Salman Al-Haifi said the ministry exerts all efforts to provide health care to pilgrims in order to guarantee them the best health services. Haifi was speaking during an orientation meeting of the Kuwaiti hajj medical mission at the Islamic medicine center, which was organized by the information office of the Ministry of Health (MOH). He said the mission provides pilgrims with the necessary medicine and first aid, in addition to coordinating with officials of Saudi Arabia.

Meanwhile, head of the information office Dr Ghalia Al-Mutairi said the gathering aims at informing the mission's members about the importance of vaccinations before hajj.

Furthermore, she indicated that the meeting also aims at protecting against infectious diseases and how to deal with medical cases and care for the elderly, chronic diseases and children, as well as the cases requiring medical services in Saudi Arabia. She said that the ministry set up a hotline (90938818) that gives advice related to the pilgrims' health, adding that the information is also available using the ministry's smartphone app. — KUNA

Al-Anbaa

'Neturei Karta'

By Dr Saleh Al-Shayji

I saw a TV report about an extreme Jewish movement called 'Neturei Karta' (city guardians), and the word Natoor is mentioned with the same pronunciation in Hebrew. The similarity between the Arab and Hebrew pronunciations in the word 'natoor' leads me to remembering a short period in which I studied Hebrew and found a similarity in some vocabulary between it and Arabic. I still remember little Hebrew, as much of what I learned nearly 40 years ago has been lost with time. I am not here to speak about the similarities between Arabic and Hebrew, but I wanted to focus on that Jewish movement which I started my article speaking about it: 'Neturei Korta.'

This movement or organization is very strange. It is a thorny plant in Israel as it acts against Zionism, and does not recognize Israel. Rather, it opposes the establishment of the state of Israel because it sees Judaism as a religion, not a state, and that it is not right to establish a political entity based on religious Jewish justifications. This movement believes that the Jewish religion should be kept away from the political mud, and that is why it has more animosity towards Zionism and Israel than the Palestinians themselves and the entire Arabs and Muslims. Why? Because they see that Israel stabbed them in the back and harmed their religion.

This movement believes that the Jewish religion should be kept away from the political mud

Yet, the Israeli government considers them as traitors, and that is why it suppresses them worse than it does the Palestinians. Despite their continued clashes with the Israeli force, they do not let any occasion go without anti-Israel demonstrations; during which they carry the Palestinian flag and desecrate the Israeli flag. They are friends of Muslims and Christians and do not consider the Zionists as Jews, but they consider them intruders on Judaism. They look at themselves as Palestinian Jews and are demanding a Palestinian ruling of Israel. Some of them spoke about what they face in the form of Israeli oppression, but despite that, they are holding on their ideology and principles.

— Translated by Kuwait Times from Al-Anbaa

Man stabbed to death in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh fight

KUWAIT: An Indian's body was recovered by the coroner, after he died of wounds from a deep stab in the chest during a fight. The suspected killer escaped and detectives are working on identifying him. Police responded to a call about a fight in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, but when they arrived, nobody was there except the injured kid, who died en route to hospital.

Suicide

An Asian woman hanged herself to death from a tree in Farwaniya. An Asian man called police and told them a woman was hanging from a tree. Police who went to the scene called forensics. The body was recovered by the coroner.

Policeman faces charges

A policeman at the airport passports department was caught by his colleagues trying to allow entry to an Indian who is banned from the country in exchange of money. Doubts were raised about the policeman, so his superiors asked that he be put under surveillance. He was caught when he did not enter the Indian's data in the computer. The policeman was sent to the prosecution for further questioning.

Drug dealer caught

An Iraqi was arrested after he turned his Mahboula flat into a lab to prepare drugs for sale, and was producing four kilograms in each batch. The suspect did not pay attention to the odor, leading detectives to arrest him. Detectives raided the house found the drugs. The Iraqi, 34, was smuggling raw material through the Abdaly border outlet.

— Translated from the Arabic press

Al-Qabas

How did they turn humiliation into power?

By Ahmad Ghaith

On June 12th 1941, Japan attacked Pearl Harbor in order to weaken the American Navy fleet, and to ensure its control over its neighboring countries. Then in August 1945, the American Air force dropped two nuclear bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki respectively, claiming that the Japanese prefer suicide over surrender. On August 14, 1945 Emperor Hirohito declared Japan's surrender saying that it was for the sake of Japan and its people. The capitulation was signed in September 1945, which was changed into an alliance and protection treaty in 1951.

General Douglas MacArthur placed his command headquarters opposite to the Imperial Palace, and made decisions to humiliate Japan, the emperor and the people. He supervised the writing of Japan's constitution which came in effect in the year 1946. The authorities of the emperor were given to the Prime Minister. Article 9 banned Japan from forming an army and Japan bowed to American demands, but on the other hand, it paid attention to halting its economic collapse through a plan known as the Yoshida Doctrine, after Prime Minister Shigeru Yoshida who served from 1946 to 1954.

American capitals were encouraged to invest in the Japanese Industry. But after the revival of this economy, the Japanese were able to take over all shares of foreign companies. Following marathon negotiations, Japan agreed at the end of the 1970s to allow foreigners to have 20 percent in Japanese firms, provided that the number of shareholders must be at least five people in each company. The goal behind that is to keep them from influencing the decision making process (divide and conquer).

There are many Americans bases in Japan, and the Japanese are convinced that it is necessary for them to be there because it forms a security protection against any foreign aggression. The American Ambassador said during a lecture in the foreign Journalists club in 1982: "The Japanese economy is at its peak, so we hope that Japan contributes to the budget of renovating the (military) bases." Then on the next day, a Japanese statement said that Article 9 of the constitution that was written by General MacArthur does not allow Japan to deal with military affairs.

When the Americans asked for the amendment of the constitution, the Japanese answer was: the opposition in the Parliament will not agree. Japan took advantage of the American free trade policy, and was exporting 1.8 million vehicles a year to America in addition to other products, but there was not a single American product in its markets. This reflects Japan's wisdom with which they turned the tables on General MacArthur, and turned humiliation into an industrial and economic power. American forces could not influence change to Japan's policy.

It has been said that after signing the merger agreement between Egypt and Syria, Syrian President Shukri Al-Quwatly told Egyptian President Jamal Abdulnasser "the population of Syria is seven million, which means I gave you seven million leaders." Individuality and the leadership in an Arab person makes it easy for conspiracies to multiply, and that is why it is said that Arabs always agree to disagree.

— Translated by Kuwait Times from Al-Qabas

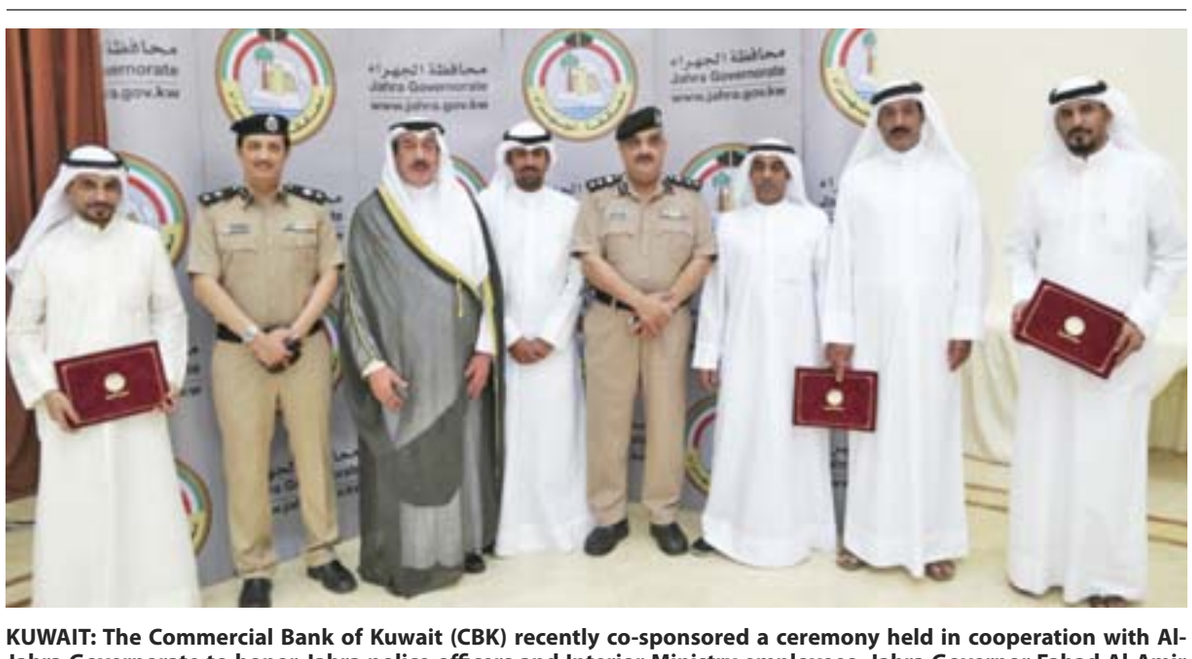
NBK sponsors LOYAC's trip to Tanzania

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) sponsors a trip for LOYAC's students to Tanzania. This sponsorship is part of NBK's commitment to its Corporate Social Responsibility as well as the vital role it plays in supporting students, youths and self-building initiatives in Kuwait.

Joanne Al-Abduljaleel

This sponsorship goes with NBK's support to LOYAC's annual activities and events including the trips. A group of volunteers from different backgrounds are participating in this trip which is designed to build the leadership skills in their personality. This one-week trip includes a visit to one of the schools to teach children there English language. The volunteers will also have the chance to participate in a group of social initiatives as planting trees, interacting with children at the orphanages, cleaning campaigns and donation for food or clothes. During this trip, Participants will be introduced to the tribes' cultures and learn their daily life routine including several activities such as trying hunting with arrows and cooking.

Joanne Al-Abduljaleel, NBK Public Relations Officer, said: "NBK always strives to empower Kuwaiti youth to realize their potentials, build their personalities and motivates their ambition. This trip with LOYAC comes in line with our strategy to invest in youth and develop their capabilities." "NBK continues to promote a range of philanthropic missions and social welfare programs as part of its corporate social responsibility to assert its leadership in supporting Kuwait's social development, standing as a model in serving all aspects of the community," she added.



KUWAIT: The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) recently co-sponsored a ceremony held in cooperation with Al-Jahra Governorate to honor Jahra police officers and Interior Ministry employees. Jahra Governor Fahad Al-Amir attended the ceremony, along with mayors and Interior Ministry officials.

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KOBANI: A Kurdish man mourns over his friend's grave who was killed while fighting against Islamic State militants in Raqqa, at a cemetery. — AP

THE 'LOST GENERATION' OF MIDDLE EAST MEN

WAR, VIOLENCE AND TURMOIL AFFECTING MEN IN PARTICULAR

MIAMI: Suicide and murder take 10 times as many lives as war does in the Middle East and nearby regions, creating a "lost generation," particularly among men, researchers said yesterday. These violent acts accounted for 1.4 million deaths in 2015 in the Eastern Mediterranean region, which includes 22 nations such as Afghanistan, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and the United Arab Emirates, said the report in the International Journal of Public Health.

Wars in the Eastern Mediterranean region-home to 600 million people-took an additional 144,000 lives. "Intractable and endemic violence is creating a lost generation of children and young adults," said lead author Ali Mokdad, director for Middle Eastern Initiatives at the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the University of Washington. "The future of the Middle East is grim unless we can find a way to bring stability to the region."

Researchers also found a "sharp increase" in mental health conditions such as depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, and schizophrenia in the Eastern Mediterranean. "In 2015, nearly 30,000 people in the region committed suicide and another 35,000 died from interpersonal violence, representing increases of 100 percent and 152 percent, respectively, over the past 25 years," said the report. "In other parts of the world during the same period, the number of deaths from suicide increased 19 percent and interpersonal violence by 12 percent."

Shortage of experts

Meanwhile, experts such as counselors, psychiatrists and psychologists are in severe shortage. Countries such as Libya, Sudan and Yemen have just 0.5 psychiatrists per 100,000 people, said the report. In comparison, among European nations the ratio ranges from nine per 100,000 to more than 40. Researchers also found a 10-fold increase in deaths related to HIV/AIDS between 1990 and 2015.

Most of the cases of death from HIV/AIDS occurred in Djibouti, Somalia, and Sudan. "In this region, individuals infected with HIV are dying faster than the rest of the world," said assistant professor at IHME, Charbel El Bcheraoui. "This is a sign that HIV patients are not receiving proper treatment in an era where HIV can be well controlled with the appropriate treatment regimens." The entire report includes 15 papers and three editorials. The data comes from the most recent estimates from the annual Global Burden of Diseases, Injuries, and Risk Factors study (GBD). The GBD is put together by more than 2,300 collaborators in 132 countries, and looks at health loss from all major diseases, injuries, and risk factors by age, sex, and population. — AFP

TRUMP STILL HUNTING FOR COMMUNICATIONS CHIEF

NEW YORK: For the third time in six months, President Donald Trump is on the hunt for a new communications director. But in practice, the job is filled. It's Trump who's the White House's leading expert and the final word on what and how he communicates with the public. Despite decrying most negative media coverage as "fake news" and personally insulting members of the media, he has inserted himself into the White House's press operations in an unprecedented fashion for a president.

Trump has dictated news releases and pushed those who speak for him to bend the facts to bolster his claims. He has ignored the advice of his legal team and thrown out carefully planned legislative strategies with a single 140-character tweet. His direct, hands-on style helped him win the White House and still thrills his supporters. It also, however, poses increasing political and potentially legal risks. The clearest example is his involvement in crafting a statement for son Donald Jr. about a meeting with a Kremlin-connected lawyer. That declaration was quickly proven erroneous and raised questions about whether the president was trying to cover for his son.

Trump has struggled to find a communications adviser that meets his approval. His first, Mike Dubke, stayed behind the scenes and never clicked with Trump, leaving after three months. Then Sean Spicer, Trump's oft-beleaguered press secretary, took on the communications director job as well. He resigned both posts last month when Trump brought in hard-charging New York financier Anthony Scaramucci. Scaramucci lasted only 11 days before being fired in the aftermath of an expletive-filled interview. A fourth candidate for the post, campaign spokesman Jason Miller, was named to the job during the transition but turned it down days later, citing a need to spend time with his family.

WASHINGTON: In this July 31, 2017 file photo, President Donald Trump speaks in the East Room of the White House. — AP

Private talks

More recently there have been some informal internal conversations about an increased communications role for White House aide Stephen Miller, according to an administration official who was not authorized to discuss private talks by name and requested anonymity. Those talks are still seen as preliminary. Miller recently clashed with some reporters over immigration policy at a contentious press briefing.

This past week, as White House staffers readied a statement accompanying Trump's signature on legislation approving toughened sanctions on Russia - a bill Trump criticized - word came down that the president wanted to add some off-topic language into the statement. That's according to two officials familiar with the matter who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly talk about internal discussions.

"I built a truly great company worth many billions of dollars," the new section read. "That is a big part of the reason I was elected. As president, I can make far better deals with foreign countries than Congress." That personal and boastful rhetoric is a far cry from the formal language normally found in presidential statements. It also appeared aimed at angering the same lawmakers he will need if he wants to pass any major legislation.

"All presidents are their own best messengers," said Ari Fleischer, a press secretary for President George W. Bush. Fleischer said that Bush, too, would at times get involved with the White House press shop. Fleischer noted there was always a safety net of advisers at work. That does not appear to exist around the current president - particular around his Twitter account. "The lesson for this president is that it's perfectly fine to be involved and to, at times, go around the mainstream media with Twitter," Fleischer said. "But he needs to tweet smarter." — AP

TALEBAN, IS JOINTLY MASSACRED 50 CIVILIANS: AFGHAN OFFICIALS

KABUL: The Taleban and Islamic State group jointly massacred dozens of civilians in an Afghan village, officials said yesterday, highlighting rare co-operation between the insurgents that could increase the strain on Afghanistan's beleaguered security forces. The fighters killed more than 50 men, women and children in the remote Sayad district of northern Sar-e Pul province on Saturday after overrunning the Afghan Local Police (ALP) — a government-backed militia-in a 48-hour battle, according to local officials.

"It was a joint operation by Daesh (IS) and Taleban fighters. They had recruited forces from other provinces of the country and attacked Mirzawalang village," Zabihullah Amani, a spokesman for the provincial governor, told AFP. The spokesman alleged that dozens of Taleban and IS group fighters under the command of Sher Mohammad Ghazanfar, a local Taleban commander who Amani claims pledged allegiance to IS, launched a coordinated attack on the area on Thursday.

"The fighters overran the area and it led to the massacre of innocent and defenceless civilians," he said. The majority of those killed were Shiites. Most were shot but some were beheaded, Amani added. Verifying information from poor, mountainous areas of Afghanistan made inaccessible by fighting and with patchy communications is difficult, and AFP was not able to access the village.

Mohammad Noor Rahmani, head of Sar-e Pul's provincial council, said 44 of the 50 victims were believed to be civilians, with the ALP militia also suffering casualties. "This is not the final toll. It might change because the area is inaccessible and no telephone networks are working to get an update," he told AFP. The Taleban and IS fighters have regularly clashed since the latter gained a foothold in eastern Afghanistan in 2015, as the two vie for supremacy in the war-torn country.

An Afghan security source told AFP there had been around three incidents in the past where fighters from both groups had teamed up to strike Afghan forces in certain areas. "This is not the first time that they have co-operated. There are no strict ideological distinctions between them so they build bridges when it helps them both. It's very opportunistic," the source said.

IS has been adding a sectarian twist to the Afghan conflict, with a number of deadly attacks on Shiites in the past year. Last week two suicide bombers throwing grenades killed more than 33 worshippers at a mosque in Afghanistan's western city of Herat, in an attack claimed by IS. A resurgent Taleban, whose ranks are mostly made up of Sunni Muslim ethnic Pashtuns, is at the peak of its summer fighting season.

Zabihullah Mujahid, a spokesman for the Taleban, confirmed to AFP that it had captured Mirzawalang village but said it had done so alone. It also denied allegations it had killed civilians. "It was an independent operation by our mujahideen forces. There is no cooperation with the Islamic State on the operation," said the spokesman. — AFP

Pence: Story on possible 2020 presidential run 'disgraceful'

BRIDGEWATER: Vice President Mike Pence has pushed back against a news report suggesting he is laying groundwork for a possible presidential bid in 2020 if President Donald Trump does not run. In a statement released by the White House, Pence said Sunday's story in The New York Times "is disgraceful and offensive to me, my family, and our entire team." He added that "the allegations in this article are categorically false." The formal rebuttal of a news report by the vice president was an unusual move. In it, Pence also said his team will "focus all our efforts to advance the president's agenda and see him re-elected in 2020."

The report details efforts of several Republicans looking ahead to 2020, calling it a "shadow campaign." It notes Pence's political schedule and active fundraising, though it also says unnamed advisers have signaled that he'd only run if Trump doesn't. Trump, meanwhile, insisted his support is stronger than ever. In a flurry of early morning tweets Monday, Trump says "the Trump base far bigger & stronger than ever before (despite some phony Fake News polling)." He specifically criticized the "failing @nytimes."

The New York Times article noted Pence has set up a fundraising committee. Called the Great America Committee, it can accept checks of up to $5,000 from individual donors. Pence raised about $1 million at a Washington fundraiser last month, attended by dozens of lawmakers and featuring remarks from White House adviser Ivanka Trump. Trump has not suggested he won't seek a second term. But his first six months in office have been turbulent, marked by staff infighting, legislative struggles and a series of investigations.

White House counselor Kellyanne Conway also dismissed the report and said Pence is readying to run in 2020 "for re-election as vice president." "Vice President Pence is a very loyal, very dutiful, but also incredibly effective vice president, and active vice president, with this president," said Conway on ABC's "This Week."

"He is a peer to the president in the West Wing." New York Times spokeswoman Danielle Rhoades Ha said in an emailed statement: "We are confident in the accuracy of our reporting and will let the story speak for itself." —AP

VALENCIA: An anti-government activist shows bullet cases during a protest in Venezuela's third city, Valencia, on August 6, 2017, a day after a new assembly with supreme powers and loyal to President Nicolas Maduro started functioning in the country. —AFP

Venezuela army repels attack, hunts assailants

VALENCIA: Venezuela's military was hunting a group of "mercenaries" yesterday who made off with weapons after an attack on an army base carried out against what they called the "murderous tyranny" of President Nicolas Maduro. Around 20 men led by an army officer who had deserted battled troops in the base in the third city of Valencia for three hours early Sunday, officials said.

The raid ended with two of the attackers being killed and eight captured, Maduro said on state television. The other 10 escaped with weapons taken from the facility, according to officials who said an "intense search" was underway for them. Maduro claimed the "terrorist" group had ties to Colombia and the United States.

The incident heightened fears that Venezuela's deepening political and economic crisis could explode into greater violence, perhaps open armed conflict. Officials insisted afterward that all was normal across the country. Military helicopters flew overhead and tactical armored vehicles patrolled the streets in Valencia, a major northwestern city, in a climate of tension on Sunday after the attack.

Locals said a nighttime curfew was imposed. Police dispersed protesters who had set up flaming barricades across roads. The armed forces said in a statement "a group of civilian criminals wearing military uniforms and a first lieutenant who had deserted" carried out the attack. Maduro said the lieutenant, among those captured, was "actively giving information and we have testimony from seven of the civilians."

Loyal military chiefs

Maduro congratulated the army for its "immediate reaction" in putting down the attack, saying they earned his "admiration." Venezuela's opposition has repeatedly urged the military to abandon Maduro. But Defense Minister Vladimir Padrino, the head of the armed forces, has said the military's loyalty was unshakable. In a video posted online just before the attack, a man presenting himself as an army captain named Juan Caguaripano declared a "legitimate rebellion... to reject the murderous tyranny of Nicolas Maduro."

Speaking with 15 men in camouflage standing by him, some of them armed, he demanded a transitional government and "free elections." It was not known if he was the lieutenant referred to in the military statement, demoted for deserting, or whether he was another renegade officer. That statement said the lieutenant involved had deserted three years ago and taken refuge in Miami, in the US state of Florida.

Venezuela isolated

Venezuela has become increasingly isolated internationally as Maduro tightens his hold on power through a contested loyalist assembly that started work this week. The opposition, which controls the legislature, has been sidelined. Its leaders are under threat of arrest after organizing protests-fiercely countered by security forces-that have left 125 people dead in the past four months. The new Constituent Assembly, packed with Maduro allies including the president's wife and son, has quickly used its supreme powers to clamp down on dissent. On Saturday, it ordered the dismissal of the attorney general, Luisa Ortega, who had broken ranks with Maduro to become one of his most vociferous critics. — AFP

Minnesota mosque explosion 'deeper, scarier' than threats

Governor: 'This is an act of terrorism'

MINNEAPOLIS: The Dar Al-Farooq Islamic Center in suburban Minneapolis, like other US mosques, occasionally receives threatening calls and emails. Its leaders say they're more frightened now after an explosive shattered windows and damaged a room as worshippers prepared for morning prayers. "We feel like it's much deeper and scarier than like something random," Mohamed Omar, the center's executive director, said Sunday. "It's so scary."

No one was hurt in the blast, which happened around 5 am Saturday. Windows of the imam's office were shattered, either by what the FBI called an "improvised explosive device" or by an object thrown through them. The FBI is seeking suspects and trying to determine whether the incident was a hate crime. Gov Mark Dayton joined other public officials and community leaders for a meeting inside the building Sunday, describing the bombing as "so wretched" and "not Minnesota." "This is an act of terrorism. This is against the law in America," Dayton said at a news conference afterward, the Star Tribune reported.

A place for families

Besides serving as a place of worship and community center, the mosque in Bloomington, just south of Minneapolis, has a fitness center, gymnasiums for boys and girls, a football field and adjoins a city park, Omar said. He estimates the mosque holds up to 300 worshippers for Friday prayers. The community center also hosts computer classes, a basketball league, religious classes, lectures and other events.

"It's a place that a family can come and get everything they need," Omar said. The mosque opened in 2011 at the site of a former elementary school in the suburb of about 85,000, and serves people primarily from the area's large Somali community. Minnesota is home to the largest Somali community in the US, roughly 57,000 people, according to the latest census.

Some residents opposed the center's opening, and complaints have been made about parking, noise and traffic, the Star Tribune reported. Omar said the center gets along with "92, 93 percent" of its neighbors. And while the mosque has received threatening calls and messages, Deputy Bloomington Police Chief Mike Hartley said Sunday he was unaware of any hate crimes reported at the center.

Reports of anti-Muslim incidents in the US are increasing, including arson attacks and vandalism at mosques, harassment of women wearing Muslim head coverings and bullying of Muslim schoolchildren. Also in Minnesota, an Islamic cemetery in Castle Rock Township recently reported it had been vandalized with spray painted profanities and swastikas.

A US Department of Homeland Security statement on the Bloomington explosion says the department "fully supports the rights of all to freely and safely worship the faith of their choosing and we vigorously condemn such attacks on any religious institution." The reward for information leading to an arrest or conviction has grown to $24,000, said Asad Zaman, director of the Muslim American Society of Minnesota. The Minnesota chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, or CAIR, said its national office is urging Islamic centers and mosques to step up security. "If a bias motive is proven, this attack would represent another in a long list of hate incidents targeting Islamic institutions nationwide in recent months," said Amir Malik, the local chapter's civil rights director. —AP

BLOOMINGTON: Mohamed Omar, left, the executive director of the Dar Al Farooq Center Islamic Center leads afternoon prayers outside the police tape surrounding the center. —AP

EL CERRITO: In this Wednesday, July 12, 2017 photo, Sam, 9, reads a book in the library at Bay Area Rainbow Day Camp. — AP

Transgender camp to include 4-year-olds

EL CERRITO: In some ways, Rainbow Day Camp is very ordinary. Kids arrive with a packed lunch, make friendship bracelets, play basketball, sing songs and get silly. But it is also extraordinarily unique, from the moment campers arrive each morning. At check-in each day, campers make a nametag with their pronoun of choice. Some opt for "she" or "he." Or a combination of "she/he." Or "they," or no pronoun at all. Some change their name or pronouns daily, to see what feels right.

The camp in the San Francisco Bay Area city of El Cerrito caters to transgender and "gender fluid" children, ages 4 to 12, making it one of the only camps of its kind in the world open to preschoolers, experts say. Enrollment has tripled to about 60 young campers since it opened three summers ago, with kids coming from as far as Los Angeles, Washington, D.C. - even Africa. Plans are underway to open a branch next summer in Colorado, and the camp has been contacted by parents and organizations in Atlanta, Seattle, Louisiana and elsewhere interested in setting up similar programs.

On a sunny July morning at camp, the theme was "Crazy Hair Day," and 6-year-old Gracie Maxwell was dancing in the sunshine as a Miley Cyrus song blasted from outdoor speakers. The freckled, blue-eyed blonde wore her hair in a braid on one side, a pigtail on the other and snacked on cereal as she twirled and skipped.

Gender changes or mood swings?

"Once she could talk, I don't remember a time when she didn't say, 'I'm a girl,'" said her mother, Molly Maxwell, who still trips over pronouns but tries to stick to "she." "Then it grew in intensity: 'I'm a sister. I'm a daughter. I'm a princess,'" Maxwell said. "We would argue with her. She was confused. We were confused." Living in the liberal-minded Bay Area made it easier. The Maxwells found a transgender play group, sought specialists, and at 4 years old, let Gracie grow her hair, dress as a girl and eventually change her name.

"I see her now, compared to before. I watch her strut around and dance and sing and the way she talks about herself. If she was forced to be someone else," the mother trails off. "I don't even want to think about that." Gender specialists say the camp's growth reflects what they are seeing in gender clinics nationwide: increasing numbers of children coming out as transgender at young ages. They credit the rise to greater openness and awareness of LGBT issues and parents tuning in earlier when a child shows signs of gender dysphoria, or distress about their gender.

"A decade ago, this camp wouldn't have existed. Eventually, I do believe, it won't be so innovative," camp founder Sandra Collins said. "I didn't know you could be transgender at a very young age. But my daughter knew for sure at 2." Collins' experience as the mother of a transgender girl, now 9, inspired her to start the camp, and another for 13- to 17-year-olds called Camp Kickin' It.

"A lot of these kids have been bullied and had trauma at school. This is a world where none of that exists, and they're in the majority," Collins said. "That's a new experience for kids who are used to hiding and feeling small." Fourth grader Scarlett Reinhold, Collins' daughter who was born a boy, says at camp she can be herself. "I feel comfortable for being who I am and who I want to be," says Scarlett, a confident 9year-old in a frilly skirt who wears her dark hair long and wavy.

No data on trans

There is little comprehensive data on young children who identify as transgender, but experts say as the number of young people coming to their clinics increases, the prevailing medical guidance has shifted. The favored protocol today is known as the "gender affirmative" approach, which focuses on identifying and helping transgender children to "socially transition" - to live as the gender they identify with rather than the one they were born with until they're old enough to decide on medical options like puberty blockers and later, hormone treatments.

The Center for Transyouth Health and Development at Children's Hospital in Los Angeles, started a decade ago with about 40 patients, now has over 900 people, ages 3 to 25, enrolled in its program, with 150 on its waiting list, said Johanna Olson-Kennedy, the clinic's medical director. "I just think there's a lot more openness to the understanding that trans adults start as trans kids," Olson-Kennedy said. "When people say, 'Isn't this too young?' my question back to them is, 'Too young for what? How young do people know their gender?' The answer to that is some people know it at 3, and some people know it at 30."

Diane Ehrensaft, director of mental health at the University of California, San Francisco's Child and Adolescent Gender Center, says enrollment there has tripled over the past few years with a "sea change - maybe we can even call it a tsunami - in the number of little kids showing up with their families." She fields a growing number of calls from families overseas, including South Africa, Ethiopia, Hong Kong, Belgium, England and other countries that lack resources. —AP

After military shake-up, Turkey to tackle Kurds

ISTANBUL: Days after a reshuffle of Turkey's top military commanders, President Tayyip Erdogan has revived warnings of military action against Kurdish fighters in Syria that could set back the US-led battle against Islamic State. Kurdish militias are spearheading an assault against the hardline militants in their Syrian stronghold Raqqa, from where Islamic State has planned attacks around the world for the past three years. But US backing for the Kurdish YPG fighters in Syria has infuriated Turkey, which views their growing battlefield strength as a security threat due to a decades-old insurgency by the Kurdish PKK within in its borders.

There have been regular exchanges of rocket and artillery fire in recent weeks between Turkish forces and YPG fighters who control part of Syria's northwestern border. Turkey, which has the second largest army in NATO after the United States, reinforced that section of the border at the weekend with artillery and tanks and Erdogan said Turkey was ready to take action. "We will not leave the separatist organization in peace in both Iraq and Syria," Erdogan said in a speech on Saturday in the eastern town of Malatya, referring to the YPG in Syria and PKK bases in Iraq. "We know that if we do not drain the swamp, we cannot get rid of flies."

The YPG denies Turkish allegations of links with Kurdish militants inside Turkey, saying it is only interested in self-rule in Syria and warning that any Turkish assault will draw its fighters away from the battle against Islamic State which they are waging in an alliance with local Arab forces. Erdogan's comments follow the appointment of three new leaders of Turkey's army, air force and navy last week - moves which analysts and officials said were at least partly aimed at preparing for any campaign against the YPG militia.

Turkish forces swept into north Syria last year to seize territory from Islamic State, while also cutting off Kurdish-controlled northeast Syria from the Kurdish pocket of Afrin further west. They thereby prevented Kurdish control over almost the whole sweep of the border - Ankara's worst-case scenario. Recent clashes have centered around the Arab towns of Tal Rifaat and Minnigh, near Afrin, which are held by the Kurdish YPG and allied fighters. Erdogan said Turkey's military incursion last year dealt a blow to "terrorist projects" in the region and promised further action. "We will make new and important moves soon," he said.

'More active' fight

His comments follow weeks of warnings from Turkey of possible military action against the YPG. Washington's concern to prevent any confrontation which deflects the Kurdish forces attacking Raqqa may help stay Ankara's hand, but a Turkish government source said last week's changes in military leadership have prepared the ground.

"With this new structure, some steps will be taken to be more active in the struggle against terror," the source said. "A structure that acts according to the realities of the region will be formed". The battle for Raqqa has been underway since June, and a senior US official said on Friday that 2,000 Islamic State fighters are believed to be still defending positions and "fighting for every last block" in the city.

Even after the recapture of Raqqa, US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis has left open the possibility of longer-term American assistance to the YPG. The influence of Turkey's once-dominant military has decreased dramatically since Erdogan came to power nearly 15 years ago. A purge in senior ranks since last year's failed military coup has stripped it of 40 percent of top officers. —Reuters

Macedonia aims to solve name row with Greece

SKOPJE: After a quarter-century-long dispute that has blocked its entry to NATO and the European Union, Macedonia seems determined to end the row with Greece over its name. The quarrel between Skopje and Athens dates back to Macedonia's declaration of independence from Yugoslavia in 1991 and has poisoned neighborly relations. From the outset Greece denied its neighbor the right to use the name Macedonia, which is also the name of a northern Greek region.

Greeks have cited concerns about historical appropriation-both sides, for example, claim Alexander the Great as their own-and that the name Macedonia implies a broader territorial claim. Athens and the European Union recognize the small landlocked country by its provisional name, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), under which it was also admitted to the United Nations.

Skopje has long insisted that this designation was only provisional, but in June, new Social Democratic Prime Minister Zoran Zaev seemed to relax the line of his nationalist predecessors. "With a FYROM reference we can become a member of NATO," Zaev said on a visit to the NATO headquarters in Brussels. As a member of both NATO and the European Union, Athens has vetoed Macedonia's attempts to join both blocs, but a calendar of bilateral meetings is now in place to try to resolve the dispute. In everyday conversation, Greeks usually refer to the neighboring country as "Skopje", the name of its capital city.

Horseback warrior

Back in 1992, a million Greeks-one tenth of the population-took to the streets in protest over the name issue in Thessaloniki, the main city in the Macedonia region. Tensions grew in 2006, when Skopje airport was named "Alexander the Great". The building in 2011 of a huge monument of the warrior king on a horse added fuel to the fire. Under international pressure, the statue in central Skopje was officially named "Warrior on a horse" but that did not deceive anyone-especially as, a year later, authorities inaugurated a giant statue of Philip II of Macedon, Alexander's father.

The issue remains hugely sensitive on both sides. Greece's migration minister Yiannis Mouzalas last year faced calls to resign after referring to the country as "Macedonia" instead of "FYROM" during a television interview about the migrant crisis. Mouzalas quickly apologized "for this error, which does not reflect my position and my convictions on the subject of FYROM". On Tuesday, the Greek women's handball team was punished at the European Championship after refusing to play in Skopje against Macedonia's team wearing national logo bearing that name.

'Mobilization'

In Zaev's bid to end the row, he has spoken by telephone to his Greek counterpart Alexis Tsipras. The Macedonian Foreign Minister Nikola Dimitrov was in Athens in mid-June and his Greek counterpart Nikos Kotzias is going to Skopje later this month. There is a "certain mobilisation," a Greek diplomatic source told AFP, noting "some signs" of good will in Skopje. But the source said it was now necessary to "wait for action".

A top official in Zaev's SDSM party, who also asked not to be named, warned that Greece "could keep the same position for two centuries. We should find a solution to deblock the process of integration with NATO and the EU". But, in the fragile country of about two million people, the official warned it would be necessary to reach a political "consensus" and to back up any decision with a referendum. Many Macedonians are against a name change but some say they want a way out of the tiring row.— AFP

At least 11 killed in 'barbaric' church shooting in Nigeria

WARRI: At least 11 worshippers were shot dead at a church in southeast Nigeria on Sunday, with authorities suggesting the bloodshed was due to a local feud. Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari condemned the attack, describing the incident as "an appalling crime against humanity and unspeakable sacrilege," his office said.

Buhari said "there was no justification whatsoever to target church worshippers and kill them in cold blood." At around 6:00 am (0500 GMT) at least one gunman opened fire at Saint Philip's church in Ozubulu, near the city of Onitsha, unleashing terror on the congregation. Chukwuma Emeka said he had just stepped out of the church to stretch his legs "when I heard gunshots and screaming and people running inside." "When the chaos subsided I went inside, I saw my fellow church members dead in a pool of their own blood and many others were screaming in pain."

Attacks on churches are rare in southern Nigeria, where there is a predominantly Christian population. The country's mainly-Muslim north has been gripped by a violent campaign by Boko Haram jihadists, who specialize in targeting religious centers. There were varying accounts of what happened in Ozubulu. Witnesses said five gunmen in masks stormed the church, but police said the killing was the work of a lone shooter. "So far, 12 persons have been confirmed dead and deposited in the mortuary here," a worker at Nnamdi Azikwe University Teaching Hospital told AFP.

Garba Umar, Anambra State police Commissioner, later said 11 people were killed while 18 were injured as a result of the shooting. Several worshippers with gunshot wounds were also receiving treatment at the hospital, the source said. Witnesses said they feared that up to 20 people may have died.

'Feud'

Umar said the attacker was a gunman who "went on a shooting spree, killing and wounding" worshippers. He said the violence was the result of a failed murder attempt, tied to a feud within the local community. "The information at the disposal of the police is that the gunman had been hired to kill a particular family person believed to be among the worshippers," he said.

He said the governor of the state visited the scene and promised to pay the medical bills of the injured. Local rights activist Emeka Umeagbalasi said his information about the motive largely concurred with that of the police version. The gunmen had gone to kill the son of a local chief but failed to find him at his home, Umeagbalasi said. The attackers then went to the church to hunt for him, but could not find the intended target and became angry, he said. They opened "fire on parishioners and shot indiscriminately," he said, adding that the father of the intended target was shot and wounded. Speaker of Nigeria's House of Representatives Yakubu Dogara called the attack "barbaric... the height of wickedness."

He extended his condolences to families of the victims, assuring them that the government would do everything within its power to track down those responsible. Hundreds of churches and mosques in Nigeria's north have been attacked since 2009 when Boko Haram began a violent campaign to impose strict Islamic law. The rebellion has killed at least 20,000 people and forced some 2.6 million others to flee their homes, sparking a dire humanitarian crisis in the northeast.— AFP

South Africa's Zuma facing secret vote

CAPE TOWN: A parliamentary vote of no confidence in South African President Jacob Zuma will be held by secret ballot, it was announced yesterday, a move that could encourage some ANC lawmakers to vote to oust him. The vote, scheduled for today, has become a test of African National Congress (ANC) unity as senior party figures have been increasingly critical of their leader, but it is unlikely to succeed in toppling Zuma. "Voting on the motion of no confidence in the president... will be by secret ballot," parliamentary Speaker Baleka Mbete announced, in a decision that took many analysts by surprise.

The president, who came to power in 2009, has been implicated in multiple corruption scandals, while the country's economy has fallen into recession and unemployment has risen to record levels. The 75-year-old is due to step down as head of the ANC in December, and as president before the 2019 general election-lessening pressure for his party to seek imminent change.

The vote has been subject to a long legal battle waged by opposition parties, with the Constitutional Court ruling that a secret ballot was permissible. "It's a surprising but strategic move," independent analyst Judith February told AFP. "Zuma is likely to remain even if a few MPs vote against him. I would be very surprised if Zuma goes by this process. "The decision takes the wind out of the sails of opposition as well as civil society marches and activism around this issue."

'Larceny on a grand scale'

Protests by pro- and anti-Zuma groups are planned in Cape Town, home of the South African parliament. The main opposition Democratic Alliance party said the vote was "an opportunity for us all to stand up to corruption and get rid of President Zuma and his cabinet." A group of ANC veterans from the anti-apartheid struggle has also called for MPs to vote against Zuma, who was himself imprisoned with Nelson Mandela on Robben Island under white-minority rule. South Africa is "witness to larceny on a grand scale, leaving the country not only impoverished, but also increasingly in the hands of criminalized and compromised governance," the veterans said in a statement before Mbete's announcement.

"The motion of no-confidence in President Jacob Zuma is an inevitable outcome of the myriad scandals in which he has regrettably embroiled himself and his office," they added. The ANC has fought back, saying last week it expects its lawmakers to back the president. Party chief whip Jackson Mthembu said ousting Zuma would "have disastrous consequences that can only have a negative impact on the people of South Africa". But he acknowledged recent criticism of the ANC, and the impact of a cabinet reshuffle in March when respected finance minister Pravin Gordhan was replaced with a Zuma loyalist. Gordhan's sacking led to a string of downgrades to South Africa's credit rating as well as causing the rand currency to tumble. Public support for the ANC, which swept to power under Mandela in the first non-racial elections in 1994, slipped to 55 percent in last year's local polls — its worst-ever result.

Minister sorry over nightclub 'assault'

Meanwhile, a South African deputy minister yesterday apologized after he was accused of kicking and punching a woman at a nightclub in northern Johannesburg. Higher education deputy minister Mduduzi Manana admitted he was involved in the "shameful incident", saying that "regardless of the extreme provocation, I should have exercised restraint". —AFP

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa's deputy president Cyril Ramaphosa delivers a speech at a meeting of the South African Communist Party. — AP

NAIROBI: Kenyans walk past election posters in the Kibera slum. — AFP

Why Kenyans are nervous about presidential vote

A look at the issues around the election

KAMPALA: Kenyans vote today in a close presidential election between President Uhuru Kenyatta, who seeks a second term, and Raila Odinga, who lost the last two elections. The East African high-tech and commercial hub of 44 million people is often described as one of the continent's most politically stable countries, but the torture and killing of a top election official has many recalling the disputed 2007 election between the same candidates that left more than 1,000 people dead. Here's a look at the issues around the vote:

THE CANDIDATES

Kenyatta and Odinga are from storied political families. Kenyatta is the son of Jomo Kenyatta, Kenya's first president, and Odinga is the son of Jaramogi Odinga Odinga, the country's first vice president. One must win more than 50 percent of the vote to avoid a runoff election. After losing the past two elections, this may be the last chance for the 72-year-old Raila Odinga to claim the seat that eluded his father. Odinga says he wants to restore a strong government, stamp out corruption and improve the lives of the poorest Kenyans.

The 55-year-old Kenyatta wants to avoid becoming the first Kenyan president not to win re-election. He won in 2013 with 50.03 percent of the vote, triggering an unsuccessful legal challenge by Odinga. Kenyatta at the time was facing criminal charges at the International Criminal Court over his alleged role in the 2007 election violence. Those charges were dropped due to lack of evidence, with the ICC prosecutor blaming unprecedented witness interference and bribery. This time, Kenyatta has appeared more confident while campaigning, pointing to major infrastructure projects, many backed by China, and claiming strong economic growth.

THE CALL OF TRIBE

Most political organizing in Kenya is tied to ethnicity. Many voters see Kenyatta as the candidate of the Kikuyu people, the country's largest ethnic group, and Odinga representing the Luo. That the Luo have never produced a head of state adds drama to the election. "Many middle-class Kenyans will, in an instant, go from speaking of globalization and borderless innovation while sipping on their cafe macchiatos to offering blind support to a well-known thug who happens to be from their tribes," journalist Daniel Kalinaki wrote in a recent column for the Daily Monitor newspaper.

Kenyatta's running mate under the Jubilee coalition, Deputy President William Ruto, is expected to marshal the votes of his Kalenjin people. Odinga leads the National Super Alliance, which includes political leaders of the Kamba and Luhya ethnic groups. But Kenya's political landscape is noted for shifting alliances. Kenyatta's running mate Ruto was an ally of Odinga in 2007, for example. Ruto is now being challenged at home by an influential governor who supports Odinga, which could split the Kalenjin vote that was crucial in Kenyatta's 2013 win.

CORRUPTION, POVERTY AND LAND

Severe drought conditions in half of Kenya's 47 counties have worsened tensions over land as farmers face invasions from semi-nomadic herders seeking room to graze their cattle. In Laikipia county, more than 30 people have died. Some farmers say politicians have incited the herders with the aim of shifting demographics in their favor and winning elections. Despite Kenya's expanding middle class and economic growth of 5.6 percent in 2016, according to national figures, poverty remains widespread. More than 40 percent of people live on less than $2 a day. Official corruption also feeds tensions.

LIKELIHOOD OF VIOLENCE

The Al-Shabab extremist group, based in neighboring Somalia, already has threatened Kenya's elections with a series of deadly attacks in border areas. That strains Kenya's security forces as they seek to keep the elections free of violence. The torture and killing in late July of Christopher Msando, an official in charge of Kenya's electronic voting system, has fueled concerns that the vote could be rigged. The biometric system malfunctioned in the 2013 election, leading to opposition claims of vote tampering.—AP

Pussy Riot members detained over protest in Siberian city

MOSCOW: Russian police yesterday detained two members of Pussy Riot after they staged a protest in support of a jailed Ukrainian filmmaker in a Siberian city. Maria Alyokhina, one of the punk rock group's members previously jailed for a protest against President Vladimir Putin, wrote on Twitter that she and Olga Borisova were being held in Yakutsk.

Alyokhina tweeted that they had been taken to a police station after protesting in support of filmmaker Oleg Sentsov, who is serving a 20-year term for "terrorist" offences in Yakutsk, almost 5,000 kilometers east of Moscow. "We're in Yakutsk police station No. 2," Alyokhina wrote. Borisova, in a video from a police car posted on Twitter, added: "We're going to the police station... on suspicion of committing an administrative offence, (holding) an unsanctioned rally."

Alyokhina on Sunday posted photos and a video of their brief protest on a bridge, calling Sentsov's case "one of the key political cases in the history of our country." For the protest, the women donned the group's signature colourful balaclavas and held flares and a sign saying "Free Sentsov." Sentsov was convicted for masterminding arson attacks on pro-Kremlin party offices in Crimea after Russia annexed the peninsula from Ukraine in March 2014.

His case was denounced by the West and filmmakers around the world continue to speak out in support for him. Ukrainian Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin praised the protest, writing on Twitter: "Respect to @pussyrrriot for building the bridge of freedom in Yakutsk. #FreeSentsov" Alyokhina served a prison term for a protest performance in a Moscow cathedral, being convicted of hooliganism motivated by religious hatred.

Elsewhere, rescuers yesterday desperately tried to contact eight miners missing in a flooded Siberian diamond mine as investigators opened a probe into suspected violations of safety rules. The accident on Friday at the mine in the Sakha region some 4,000 kilometers east of Moscow saw water flood in from a disused crater.

Russia's Investigative Committee, which probes serious crimes, said Monday it had opened a criminal case over suspected breaches of safety procedures at the mine, owned by the country's largest diamond producer Alrosa, punishable by up to three years in jail. Rescuers helped an injured miner escape on Saturday, bringing the total who have been evacuated to 143. He was hospitalized in a serious condition with hypothermia.

Specialized climbers were working on Monday to try to establish communications with the section where the remaining eight men are believed to be trapped by sending a signal through a drainage pipe, Alrosa said in a statement. The company's president Sergei Ivanov said Sunday that rescuers were trying to reach a location where the miners may be trapped, but the company denied a report that their exact whereabouts had been identified.

Specialist rescuers were also working inside the mine to clear tunnels blocked by mud from the flooding and rock fragments from the mining process, Alrosa said. The emergency situations ministry said rescuers had already explored along tunnels stretching almost seven kilometers and had cleared 200 meters of blocked tunnels.

The company was also working to set up extra pumps to remove water from the huge crater that is leaking into the underground mine shafts, to ensure the rescuers' safety. Relatives of the men still inside in the mine flew into the town of Mirny where the mine is located, Alrosa said, and were set to meet the company's leadership and rescuers. Alrosa made a net profit of 22.7 billion rubles ($376.37 million) in the first quarter of 2017.— Agencies

YAKUTSK: In this handout photo released by Zona.media, Maria Alyokhina and Olga Borisova, members of the Russian punk band Pussy Riot, hold flares and a banner on the bridge nearby outside the prison colony. —AP

Australia's ruling party refuses vote to recognize gay marriage

CANBERRA: Australia's ruling party yesterday rejected a push to allow lawmakers to decide whether the country should recognize gay marriage, continuing a bitter political stalemate over the divisive reform. The conservative Liberal Party-led coalition was narrowly re-elected in July 2016 with a promise to let voters decide whether Australia should recognize same-sex marriage through a popular vote. But the Senate would not allow the so-called plebiscite, which would have cost 160 million Australian dollars ($127 million), and the result could have been ignored by lawmakers when deciding how to vote on gay marriage legislation in Parliament.

Liberal Sen Dean Smith, a gay man who opposed legalizing same-sex marriage when he was appointed to the Senate in 2012, has drafted a bill to allow gay marriage now and wants his fellow Liberal lawmakers to be allowed to vote on it according to their consciences rather than according to party policy. "It's time for the party to put the matter to rest once and for all," Smith told reporters before the meeting.

But a crisis meeting of Liberal lawmakers decided to try again to persuade the Senate to endorse the plebiscite before Parliament considers voting on legislation. The rejected plebiscite bill will be reintroduced to the Senate this week. Voting on the plebiscite would be compulsory and failure to vote would be punishable by a fine.

Cheaper option

If the Senate again rejected it, the party would propose a voluntary postal plebiscite in which voters mail in their opinions instead of using ballot boxes as a cheaper option that would not need the Senate to approve the expense. The seven lawmakers who spoke against the plebiscite at the meeting were outnumbered more than three-to-one by 27 colleagues who supported the 2-year-old policy.

Finding policy agreement on the issue is a test of Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull's authority over his fragile government, which holds a single-seat majority in the House of Representatives. Lawmaker Andrew Broad had threatened to quit that government and predicted 16 of his colleagues in the Nationals party would follow if the Liberal Party opted to allow a parliamentary vote on gay marriage without a plebiscite.

"It won't be me only, the whole show would blow up," Broad told the Sunraysia Daily newspaper. "So suddenly you'd lose 16 lower house members in one bloc. Turnbull's leadership would become untenable and he'd no longer be prime minister," Broad added. Gay marriage campaigner Anna Brown said she had legal advice that the government could not conduct a postal plebiscite without Senate approval. She said her advocacy group The Equality Campaign would seek a High Court injunction to prevent any postal plebiscite.

"The government needs to think very carefully before it expends up to AU$100 million of taxpayer dollars when it could resolve this issue in Parliament as soon as this week," Brown said. Opinion polls show most Australians support gay marriage. But most of that support is soft, and gay-rights advocates are concerned that referendums rarely change the status quo in Australia. —AP

HONG KONG: A cleaner rakes palm oil residue from the sand on a beach in Hong Kong. —AFP

Hong Kong cleans beaches after massive palm oil spill

HONG KONG: A clean-up operation was under way in Hong Kong yesterday after a massive palm oil spillage from a ship collision in mainland Chinese waters clogged some of its most popular beaches. The coast was coated with rancid-smelling sticky white clumps of the oil as it washed in Sunday, with 11 beaches still closed to swimmers Monday at the height of a summer heatwave. There are still lumps of the solidified oil on the beaches and the sea water in some areas is greasy.

Hong Kong comprises more than 200 islands with glittering bays, but there are increasing concerns about pollution and rubbish blighting its shores. On Pui O beach, on the island of Lantau, cleaners raked through the famous black sand Monday morning retrieving lumps of palm oil mixed with other trash, from plastic water bottles to children's toys.

Although there is still a red flag up and the beach is officially closed, some people ventured into the water. One 61-year-old surfer, who gave his name as Simon and is a regular at the beach, said there was still oil in the sea. "It got under my feet and on my board. It's all slippery," he told AFP. "Yesterday there was big chunks along the beach and in the water." He added that there was often rubbish on the beach, often left by visitors.

"I live here now, I have to put up with it. I don't like it," said Simon, who is an airport worker originally from Hawaii. Beach announcements told determined swimmers at the closed beaches to get out of the water Monday. But Agnes Mercado, 49, a regular at secluded South Bay on Hong Kong Island, was determined to take her morning dip, although she said she would not submerge her upper body. "Of course I'm worried about it, but it's even worse than this on some days," she said of the pollution.

Environmental impact

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department said beach workers were using absorbent strips to prevent the spread of the oil and government departments had been notified to clean up the water. In a statement late Sunday it described the palm oil as "harmless to the human body". But environmentalists still fear the potential impact and say the government has not done enough to contain the spillage. "Whilst we may not see birds covered in black oil, palm oil is hazardous to wildlife in that it attracts bacteria," said Gary Stokes of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society.

Stokes added that the oil will dissolve and break down, which could also remove oxygen from the water and kill marine life. The leakage was caused by a collision between two vessels near the Pearl River estuary in southern China on Thursday, the marine department confirmed. It said it had sent nine vessels to clean up the palm oil lumps in waters off southwestern and southern Hong Kong.

In a statement to AFP it added that the clean-up had started Saturday, but did not respond to the question of how much oil had been leaked. Authorities in neighboring Guangdong province must give notification of oil spills, the department said. When asked why Hong Kong authorities had not been told of the Thursday spill until Saturday, the department said it was "because those substances may flow into Hong Kong waters after two days".

Swathes of rubbish frequently clog the coastline with authorities and environmentalists pointing the finger at southern mainland China as the source. However, campaigners also say Hong Kong itself has a terrible track record on dumping of waste-the city's landfills are groaning at capacity and there is no widespread recycling culture. —AFP

N Korea defiant after new sanctions, rejecting talks

'United States will pay the price for its crime'

MANILA: North Korea vowed yesterday that tough new United Nations sanctions would not stop it from developing its nuclear arsenal, as it rejected talks and angrily warned the United States of retaliation. The message of defiance was the first major response to the US-drafted sanctions, which the UN Security Council unanimously approved over the weekend and which could cost North Korea $1 billion a year.

The North's sole major ally China, accused by the United States of doing too little to rein in Pyongyang, piled on the diplomatic pressure by vowing to fully implement the new sanctions. "We will under no circumstances put the nukes and ballistics rockets on (the) negotiating table," North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong-Ho said in a statement released in the Philippine capital Manila where he was attending a regional security forum.

"Neither shall we flinch even an inch from the road to bolstering up the nuclear forces chosen by ourselves unless the hostile policy and nuclear threat of the US against the DPRK (North Korea) are fundamentally eliminated." In an earlier statement released via its official KCNA news agency, North Korea threatened to make the United States "pay the price for its crime... thousands of times" for drafting the sanctions.

Ri was among two dozen ministers attending the security forum, including Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and top diplomats from other Asia-Pacific nations. For his part, Tillerson ruled out a quick return to dialogue with North Korea, saying Washington would only consider talks if Pyongyang halted its ballistic missile program. "The best signal that North Korea could send that they're prepared to talk would be to stop these missile launches," Tillerson told reporters.

Tillerson did hold out the prospect of US envoys at some point sitting down with Pyongyang, but he refused to say how long the North might have to refrain from testing more long-range missiles beforehand. "I'm not going to give someone a specific number of days or weeks. This is really about the spirit of these talks," he said. The sanctions were in response to the North's two intercontinental ballistic missile tests last month, after which Kim boasted that he could now strike any part of the United States.

United stance

Tillerson, who held separate talks in Manila with Yi and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, also sought to emphasize a united stance against the North. "It's quite clear in terms of there being no daylight between the international community as to the expectation that North Korea will take steps to achieve all of my objectives, which is a denuclearized Korean peninsula," he said.

Wang then followed up by warning North Korea that China, which is Pyongyang's biggest trading partner, would be resolute in implementing the sanctions. "China will for sure implement that new resolution 100 percent, fully and strictly," Wang told reporters, according to a translator. Pyongyang's fiery statement via KCNA yesterday hit out at Beijing and Moscow, which has also offered the North diplomatic cover in the past.

North Korea warned that nations which "received appreciation from the US" for supporting the resolution would also be "held accountable". US President Donald Trump had on Sunday said on Twitter that he "appreciates" Russia and China's cooperation in backing the sanctions. Either of them could have blocked the measures with their UN veto.

Seoul sought to extend an olive branch to the North in a brief and rare encounter on Sunday between South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-Wha and Ri at a dinner to welcome the diplomats to Manila. Kang urged Ri to accept Seoul's offers of military talks to ease tensions on the divided peninsula and for discussions on a new round of reunions for divided families, according to South Korea's Yonhap news agency. But Ri immediately rejected the offer and said it "lacked sincerity", Yonhap reported. Trump and his South Korean counterpart Moon Jae-In spoke on the phone on Sunday and agreed the North "poses a grave and growing direct threat", according to a White House statement. —AFP

MANILA: (From L-R) US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, South Korea's Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-Wha and Japan's Foreign Minister Taro Kono pose for a photo during their trilateral meeting on the sidelines of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) regional security forum. —AFP

Duterte on human rights scandals: Don't go there

MANILA: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte met yesterday with America's top diplomat, where he voiced solidarity with the US amid global concerns over North Korea's nuclear program and angrily dismissed media questions about human rights abuses by his government. Duterte and US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson met in Manila at a regional Asia gathering. It was the highest-level interaction to date between a member of President Donald Trump's administration and Duterte, accused by human rights groups of flagrant abuses in his bloody war against illegal drugs.

If the two leaders discussed those or other US concerns about Duterte's government, they didn't do so in public. Instead, the two focused on the alliance between the two countries and on the North Korea issue as reporters were allowed in briefly for the start of their meeting. Entering an ornate, wood-paneled hall in the Philippine leader's palace, Tillerson was introduced to members of Duterte's Cabinet, shaking hands with each. Duterte welcomed the American and said he said he knew the US was concerned about Pyongyang's missile program. "You come at a time when I think the world is not so good, especially in the Korean Peninsula," Duterte said.

Global terrorism threats

Earlier, as they shook hands, the two ignored a shouted question about whether they'd discuss human rights. And at a news conference after their meeting, Duterte bristled but didn't answer directly when asked whether human rights had come up. "Human rights, son of a b***h," Duterte said, arguing he shouldn't be questioned about alleged violations given the challenges he's facing. "Policemen and soldiers have died on me. The war now in Marawi, what caused it but drugs? So human rights, don't go there."

But ahead of the meeting, Duterte's presidential spokesman, Ernesto Bella, said the topic would indeed come up, along with other pressing matters such as global terrorism threats, economic cooperation and security in Marawi, the city that has been under siege by pro-Islamic State group militants for more than two months.

"We also welcome the opportunity to address concerns such as human rights if and when raised," Bella said in a statement. "We have always included this issue in our discussions and engagements with foreign governments, particularly Western democracies." The US, too, said ahead of the meeting that human rights would be among the topics on the agenda.

Human rights groups have questioned the Trump administration's willingness to engage with Duterte. But Tillerson argued there's no contradiction presented by the US decision to help his country fight the militants, whose insurgency in the Philippines has stoked global fears about the Islamic State group exporting violence into Southeast Asia and beyond.

Nearly 700 people have died in the intense fighting, including 528 militants and 122 soldiers and policemen, since hundreds of black flag waving gunmen stormed into buildings and homes in the business district and outlying communities of mosque-studded Marawi, a center of Islamic faith in the southern third of the predominantly Roman Catholic nation. —AFP

SE Asia urges Malaysia to halt migrant crackdown

KUALA LUMPUR: Southeast Asian lawmakers yesterday urged Malaysia to halt a crackdown on migrant workers that has seen more than 6,000 foreigners detained and sparked alarm among rights groups. Relatively developed Malaysia is a magnet for migrant workers from across Asia in sectors ranging from construction to agriculture, but several million are believed to be undocumented.

Authorities started rounding up illegal workers after an official program to register undocumented foreigners ended on June 30. The latest official figures show 6,038 undocumented workers have been arrested in raids. The two largest groups represented were from Indonesia and Bangladesh, with substantial numbers also from Myanmar, the Philippines and Vietnam.

MPs from a group that brings together Southeast Asian lawmakers pushing for better human rights visited Malaysia on a fact-finding mission, and at the end of the trip made a plea for authorities to end the crackdown. "This inhumane action must be halted," Philippine Congresswoman Emmi De Jesus told reporters in Kuala Lumpur at the end of the visit. "Many migrants are living in constant fear. Poor treatment by law enforcement, including indefinite detention in abysmal conditions, are urgent concerns."

The group, ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights, urged all Southeast Asian governments to adopt a binding regional treaty on migrant workers, aimed at protecting workers and their rights. Leading Malaysian migrant rights group Tenaganita said it was "upset to see such large numbers of undocumented workers including refugees being handcuffed, arrested, criminalized, sent to prisons and detention centers". The group says that many of the migrants are in reality victims of unscrupulous employers and agents who demand huge sums of money to bring them to the country, then leave them saddled with huge debts. Migrant workers typically do manual jobs spurned by locals. A total of 135 employers have also been detained in the crackdown, according to official figures. —AFP

PORT DICKSON: In this file picture taken late July 11, 2017, detained foreign workers board a truck following a raid by Malaysian immigration authorities at a construction site. —AFP

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Focus

Ryan focuses on home but can't escape questions

With a dysfunctional Congress on recess, House Speaker Paul Ryan has turned his focus back home, touring flood-damaged areas and visiting local businesses in Wisconsin. But he can't escape the questions about why Republicans in charge of Washington aren't delivering. And though he's won re-election easily for years, Ryan faces the prospect of challenges from left and right and an energized Democratic base in next year's midterm elections. "We have a majority in the House and Senate and it feels like nothing's getting done," 32-year-old James Hulsey said just before Ryan recently toured his workplace.

Sensing the angst, Ryan has been much more visible in his southeast Wisconsin district as Republicans failed to deliver on their yearslong promise to scrap the health care law and new polling numbers show the speaker is less popular among Republicans in Wisconsin than President Donald Trump. Trump won Wisconsin by less than a percentage point, but he carried Ryan's district by 10 points.

In the remaining months of the year, Ryan and the Republican-led Congress are determined to deliver major legislation, elusive so far due to GOP infighting, and the top priority is overhauling the nation's tax code. Failure to produce could cost Republicans their House majority in the 2018 midterms and, for Ryan, his job as speaker and Republican leader. "This is the third time in 100 years we've had this alignment of government that we've got to get it done or else I really worried our country will continue down a bad path," Ryan said after his tour of the wire manufacturer Banker Wire, in Mukwonago, Wisconsin. He later told the Wisconsin State Journal, "If we don't do our job, we will depress turnout. I am frustrated as well."

Republican Keith Ketzler, 62, worries that the GOP will pay politically next year. Democrats need to flip 24 seats to regain control. "Everybody that voted Republican is getting very frustrated," Ketzler said, after prodding Ryan about why Congress hasn't achieved more. "People crossed the line last time, but they're not going to stay crossed if they don't get things done."

Ryan angered some conservatives during the campaign with comments critical of then-candidate Trump. But in the first six months of Trump's term, Ryan has been far less critical of the president than other Republican lawmakers who have challenged a number of Trump moves, including his criticism of Attorney General Jeff Sessions, a former senator.

Ryan's Republican primary challenger last year, Paul Nehlen, initially won the backing of then-candidate Trump, who later switched to Ryan. Ryan beat Nehlen by 70 percentage points in the primary. But Nehlen, who is running again, thinks 2018 will be more difficult for Ryan, arguing that he hasn't done enough to appease Republican Trump supporters. "President Trump has given Paul Ryan way more opportunities to stand up and back him and what he has done is really undermine him," Nehlen said.

Beating Ryan will not be easy. No Democrat has represented the district since 1995. Ryan has cruised to re-election ever since he joined Congress in 1999 - winning by 35 percentage points last year. He has $11.5 million in the bank and is a familiar face in Janesville where he was born and raised and still lives with his wife and three children.

'Iron Stache'

Democrats are pinning their hopes on Randy Bryce, an Army veteran and union iron worker with the nickname "Iron Stache". He appears to have walked out of Hollywood central casting - complete with a dark mustache, thick biceps, faded blue jeans and a promise to fight for the working man. Bryce is trying to capitalize on disenchantment over Ryan's role in the health care bill as he mounts a long-shot campaign.

Bryce generated excitement among Democrats both in Wisconsin and nationally for his announcement video in June that has now been viewed more than 550,000 times. It begins with a clip of Trump praising Ryan's attempts to undo Democrat Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act and then shows Bryce getting emotional as his mother details her struggle with multiple sclerosis. "You can come work the iron," the hardhat-wearing Bryce challenges Ryan, "and I'll go to DC." Bryce raised $430,000 in the first two weeks after the spot ran. Ryan has tried to shift the conversation from the collapse of the GOP healthcare effort and toward tax reform and the news that Taiwanese iPhone manufacturer Foxconn plans to invest $10 billion on a factory in his congressional district that could employ 13,000 people. — AP

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'Chickens vs Aliens' and other modern myths

In the fairy tale of "The Travelling Princess", the heroine is granted one wish: To travel through foreign lands, meet new friends and share her riches with the people she meets. At the end of her journey, Princess Amira gives up her crown, and makes her home in Greece among the families of refugees who have fled Syria's war, helping children to find lost parents and one day return to the lives they have left behind. The story is one of eight tales in a collection of modern myths and fables invented by Syrian and Kurdish children living in Thessaloniki, Greece.

Brazilian journalist Debora de Pina Castiglione and her sister, illustrator Beatriz, recorded the stories and worked with designers and translators to create a book now sold in 11 languages throughout Europe. "Travelling Tales" aims to encourage communication between young refugees and others children, through the universal language of myth and wild imagination, Beatriz said. "The stories created by the children are super happy, and full of creativity and adventure, and really funny."

Beatriz, one of five illustrators to contribute to the book, said the sisters wanted to give children and their parents a chance to talk about the war and refugee crises. But the book is above all an expression of childhood fun that should allow readers in communities hosting refugees to see the authors not as victims but as children, who share their excitement and fantastical imagination, she added.

Among the stories, readers find a plucky duck who lives in a chocolate house, a king who gets lessons in kindness from his children, and a battle between aliens and chickens for earth's last remaining eggs. "There's a lot of fantasy: there are extraterrestrials, fairies, magic - it's really diverse," Beatriz told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Journalist Debora has volunteered in the Greek camps since Aug 2016 and said she and her sister had long dreamed of working together on a book. Over four months, Debora hosted workshops with children aged between four and 14 in three camps - Vasilika, Lagadikia and Oreokastro - and in the city of Thessaloniki, to listen to stories and help children develop ideas. She said they had not aimed to get the children to discuss their experiences fleeing war, but instead to create a space for them to express themselves.

As they began recording stories, one theme reappeared in every tale, best demonstrated by Princess Amira, said Beatriz. "In all of the stories children speak about welcoming and belonging and being accepted, which reflects obviously the experience they have been through," she said. The book has been popular in Italy and Greece, countries with large refugee populations, said Beatriz. Some 60,000 refugees and migrants, many from Syria, have become stranded in makeshift and formal camps across Greece since Balkan countries closed their borders last year to those trying to reach western and northern Europe. —Reuters

Yi struggle against poverty

For Jisi Lazuo, the torch festival in her village in southwest China should be a celebration involving colorful ethnic clothes and eating freshly slaughtered pig. Instead, it's a time of stress. "In my heart I always get worried when the torch festival comes along," said Jisi, 37, who supports a family of two grandparents and four children. "Traditional clothes are quite expensive, but for my own kids I can only buy whatever I can get," she said.

Jisi belongs to the isolated Yi ethnic community. They have a distinct language and culture, and are among the poorest in China. Most live in Liangshan, a mountainous district in the southwestern province of Sichuan and one of 14 areas of "concentrated poverty" identified by the central government. Average incomes in Liangshan are just 27 percent of the national average, official data shows. An ambitious poverty reduction campaign is seeking to change this, ensuring by 2020 that no one is living in poverty - defined by the government as less than 2,300 yuan a year.

China has lifted hundreds of millions of its citizens out of poverty over the past few decades, but doing the same for groups like the Yi poses a different set of challenges. "A lot of that poverty is not as easily accessible for the government," said Ben Westmore, a senior economist at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). "It's people who live in mountainous areas who are not very well connected, or they're more dispersed at the provincial level across the prefectures," he said.

From road building to subsidies, the central government has spent large amounts of money on poverty relief in places like Liangshan. In 2016, the Liangshan government distributed 940 million yuan ($139 million) in basic income assistance for the poorest in the region, according to the government website. Officials in charge of Liangshan's anti-poverty campaign declined to comment on the programs. The State Council poverty alleviation office in Beijing also declined to comment.

While many Yi welcome the state's help, some question whether cash handouts are sustainable. "Just giving out money is useless because one day the money will eventually run out," said Emu Zhiji, one of the few people in his village to receive a university education. Emu said he hopes to become a sports teacher, something that would be impossible for many Yi. Thirty percent are illiterate, compared to 4 percent nationally, and many do not speak Mandarin, the main language in China. As a result, they have limited options for earning a living beyond farming.

The government has tried to improve access to education for the Yi, but it struggles to recruit teachers to work in such a remote area. Many students battle to keep up with lessons taught in Mandarin. Emu said more needs to be done to allow the Yi to develop within their own culture if they are to alleviate the poverty and a dependency on government programs. "If we had better jobs we'd be able to feed and clothe ourselves on our own, but for that we need to be able to use our own language," he said. — Reuters

Calif butcher displays anti-meat sign

It was perhaps only a matter of time in ultra-progressive California, but a luxury butcher's shop is surprising patrons with a sign warning about the cruelty of eating meat. "Attention: Animals' lives are their right. Killing them is violent and unjust, no matter how it's done," reads the notice greeting patrons of The Local Butcher Shop in Berkeley. The business stuck the sign in its window as part of a "peace treaty" with animal rights activists in the left-leaning university town who have been picketing the store for the last four months.

Every Sunday as it opened for butchery lessons, it was besieged by demonstrators from rights group Direct Action Everywhere (DXE) - sometimes naked, dripping with fake blood and wrapped in cellophane. Monica Rocchino, co-owner of The Local Butcher Shop with her husband Aaron, was at her wits' end and decided to meet with the activists. "They said they wanted Berkeley to become a meat-free city and they were ready to shut down our business," said Monica. "We asked for actions we could do. And they said they'd think about it, but they kept protesting for 10 weeks. They made our neighbors mad, our neighborhood businesses were losing customers." Finally, DXE laid down its conditions for burying the hatchet.

Ideal meat

"Either we had to become a vegan butchery or we had to stop giving these classes, or put up a sign saying that animals have rights," Monica told AFP. She says the sign hasn't impacted custom. "We go to great lengths to make sure our meat is from local ranches, is raised as humanely as possible, free of antibiotics. We want... this to be the ideal meat. Our customers know this and support us." She acknowledges, however that the sign will not placate DXE, for whom the issue is black-and-white. "For them, you kill animals or you don't. I understand that belief but it's another thing to force your ideas on other people," says Monica.

Berkeley, the cradle of the US universities' free speech movement, has been the scene of regular demonstrations from the days of the anti-Vietnam War campaign to recent protests against visiting right-wing speakers. Recently it has been criticized for chilling free speech after canceling an appearances by firebrand pundit Ann Coulter and right-wing provocateur and former Brietbart editor Milo Yiannopoulos.

Berkeley also happens to be the epicenter of America's organic food industry, its reputation for being green sent up in the TV series "Portlandia," in which restaurateurs provide photographic evidence that their meat is from ethically-raised animals. DXE organizer Matt Johnson says one of the group's activists felt his blood chill as he saw "an advertisement for these courses where people are taught how to properly dismember the body of an animal."

In line with the better-known Peta animal welfare association, DXE directs its protests "everywhere where violence against animals is normalized - rodeo, circuses, restaurants, the butchers". "We dont have any ill will against any individual, no hate for butchers - only love for animals," says Johnson. "But we cannot accept small businesses misleading people, saying this is just fine, to be promoting a better brand of violence." — AFP

People play beach volleyball at Umm Suqeim Beach in Dubai yesterday. — AP

Iran papers slam MP selfies

TEHRAN: Iran's newspapers were dominated yesterday by accusations lawmakers had embarrassed themselves by clamoring to take selfies with EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini during her visit to parliament. Mogherini was among dozens of foreign guests in Iran for the inauguration of President Hassan Rouhani on Saturday, but she appeared to capture the most attention as members of parliament crowded round to grab a snap with her.

Images of the lawmakers perched on desks and lining up with their smartphones in front of the Italian diplomat triggered a storm of anger and ridicule on Iranian social media under the hashtag "selfies of humiliation". "Dear MPs, thank you for disgracing 80 million people," wrote one Twitter user. Others drew comparisons with iconic images such as Walt Disney's seven dwarves lining up to fawn over Snow White. At least one lawmaker apologized for his lack of decorum, but the issue still dominated yesterday's front pages.

The reformist Ghanoon daily had a cartoon of Mogherini in the style of Edvard Munch's famous painting "The Scream", with Iranian parliamentarians peeping from the corners with their mobile phones snapping away. The episode "shows the lack of proper education in the country", it wrote in its editorial. But the ultra-conservative Kayhan newspaper did not see the funny side. — AFP

Jordan king backs Palestinian leader

Continued from Page 1

The crisis eased on July 27 when Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ordered the removal of the metal detectors. He has also promised to investigate the embassy incident. Abdullah's visit was seen by analysts as a show of support for Abbas, who has been isolated by Israel over his response to the Al-Aqsa row.

The mosque compound is in east Jerusalem, occupied by Israel in 1967 in a move never recognised by the international community. The 1994 peace treaty between Israel and Jordan recognizes Amman's special status as official custodian of Jerusalem's holy Muslim sites. About half of Jordan's 9.5 million citizens are of Palestinian origin. Netanyahu's removal of the metal detectors was seen by Palestinians as a victory.

At Abbas' headquarters a large banner displayed a picture of the Al-Aqsa compound with the slogan "Jerusalem is victorious". "It appears that King Abdullah wants to show through his visit that he stands with the Palestinian people in the battle for Jerusalem," Palestinian political analyst Abdel Majid Sweilem told AFP. In a statement on the official state news agency Petra, the king was quoted as saying that without Jordanian "custodianship and the steadfastness of the Jerusalemites, the holy sites would have been lost many years ago".

During the crisis over the metal detectors, 82-year-old Abbas suspended security coordination with Israel, and this has remained suspended despite their removal. The decision sparked Israeli anger, with accusations he was encouraging violence. "This visit sends a message from his majesty that he is willing to contribute to removing president Abbas's isolation following his decision to stop the security coordination with Israel," Samir Awad, politics professor at Birzeit University near Ramallah in the West Bank, told AFP.

In January, US President Donald Trump came to power promising to push Israelis and Palestinians towards a peace deal, raising brief hopes among Palestinians that his unconventional approach could achieve results. But Palestinians have become increasingly frustrated by what they see as his negotiating team's one-sided approach. Trump's team has yet to publicly commit to the two-state solution, the idea of an independent Palestinian state next to Israel that has been the basis of decades of international consensus. Malki said Abbas and Abdullah had agreed that for any political process to move forward "there must be recognition of the principle of a two-state solution". — AFP

More Syrian child brides in Jordan...

Continued from Page 1

registered in the kingdom since the outbreak of the Syria conflict in 2011. The other Syrians include migrant laborers who came before the war, and those who never registered as refugees.

The figures on early marriage include all Syrians in Jordan, not just registered refugees. Many came from southern Syria's culturally conservative countryside, where even before the conflict girls typically married in their teens. Still, the study shows a higher rate of early marriage among Syrians in exile than in their homeland. The teen divorcee fled Syria's Daraa province in 2012, along with her parents and four siblings. The family eventually settled in a small town in the northern Mafraq province.

The parents and the teen, now 17, spoke on condition of anonymity because of the stigma of divorce. They said they wanted to speak out, nonetheless, in hopes of helping others avoid the same mistake. Child brides are traditionally shielded from outsiders, and the family provided a rare glimpse at what drives early marriage. "When we came here, our lives were disrupted," said the teen's mother, sitting on a floor cushion in the living room of their small rented home. "If we had remained in Syria, I would not have allowed her to get married this young."

The family scrapes by on small cash stipends and food vouchers from UN aid agencies, along with the father's below-minimum-wage income as a laborer. Worse, the family feels adrift. The parents, fearful their children would be harassed, especially the girls, did not enroll them in local schools, typically overcrowded to accommodate large numbers of Syrians. In such a setting - girls sitting at home without a seeming purpose - the push to have them get married becomes stronger.

An older sister of the teen also married as a minor. The mother said she often feels regret about her daughter having been robbed of her childhood. The younger girl spent most of her time at home, brooding. She had no girlfriends since she didn't go to school and was only allowed to leave the house with her mother, in line with traditions. In any case, there was nothing to do in the small desert town.

Two years ago, a young Syrian man asked for the teen's hand, after introductions had been made by a go-between. The intermediary talked up the stranger, saying he had job prospects and could afford his own apartment. The teen, 15 at the time, accepted. "I was bored and sad," she said. "I wanted to get married." The parents said the young man seemed immature, but that their daughter insisted. The wedding took place a month later, and the bride wore a white dress.

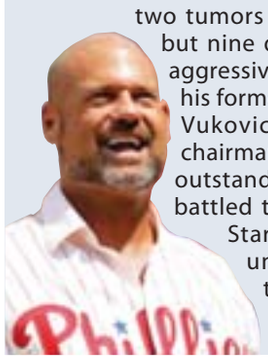
The marriage contract was sealed by a Syrian lawyer, not a Jordanian religious court judge, meaning it was not officially recognized in Jordan. Local law sets the minimum age of marriage for girls at 18, though Jordanian judges often allow exceptions for brides between the ages of 15 and 17. In 2015, 11.6 percent of Jordanian females who married that year were minors, compared to 9.6 percent in 2010, indicating a slight rise that Zoubi believes is caused in part to Jordanians being influenced by Syrian customs.

After marriage, the Syrian teen moved to a different town with her husband, and his promises quickly evaporated. The couple moved in with his extended clan, and the teen turned into a maid, according to her parents. The teen said her unemployed husband beat her. Despite the abuse, she said she wanted to stay in the marriage, fearful of the shame of divorce. Her father eventually insisted on divorce to extract her from what he felt was a harmful situation.

After returning home, the teen briefly attended an informal education and children's support program called Makani that is run by the UN child welfare agency and other aid groups at centers across Jordan. She started making friends, but stayed away again when a new group of students signed up. Robert Jenkins, the head of UNICEF in Jordan, said that by the time girls are married, it's often too late to get them back to education. "Our absolute first line of defense is prevention (of early marriage)," he said, adding that the agency tries to support families and teens so they won't opt for early marriage. — AP

Former All-Star catcher Darren Daulton dies at 55

PHILADELPHIA: Darren Daulton, the All-Star catcher who was the leader of the Philadelphia Phillies' NL championship team in 1993, has died. He was 55. Daulton had battled brain cancer since 2013. He had two tumors removed during brain surgery on July 1, 2013, but nine days later was diagnosed with glioblastoma, an aggressive form of brain cancer that also took the lives of his former teammate Tug McGraw and former coach John Vukovich. "Darren was a true leader of men," Phillies chairman emeritus Bill Giles said. "In addition to being an outstanding clubhouse leader, he was also a fighter. He battled through five knee operations to become an All-Star. I really enjoyed watching him for 14 years in uniform. Darren was a super human being. His teammates loved him, I loved him like he was one of my own." — AP



Chelsea owner Abramovich splits from wife: Spokesman

MOSCOW: Russian billionaire and Chelsea football club owner Roman Abramovich and his partner, gallerist Dasha Zhukova, have separated, a spokesman for Abramovich confirmed to AFP. "After 10 years together, the two of us have made the difficult decision to separate, but we remain close friends, parents, and partners in the projects we developed together," the two said in a statement sent to AFP Monday by Abramovich's spokesman John Mann. Abramovich, 50, is Russia's 12th richest businessman, according to Forbes magazine, with a fortune of $9.1 billion. He has owned Chelsea football club since 2003. The statement on Monday did not make clear whether Abramovich and Zhukova, 36, are married, although this has been previously reported. Abramovich and Zhukova have two children together, a son and daughter. In the couple's joint statement, they said that "We are committed to jointly raising our two children." —AFP

Tuilagi, Solomona sent home from England camp

LONDON: Manu Tuilagi and Denny Solomona have been sent home from an England training camp due to "team culture issues", the Rugby Football Union announced yesterday. "Denny Solomona and Manu Tuilagi have been sent home today from England's training camp following team culture issues," the RFU said in a short press release. "We will not be commenting further." Britain's Press Association said the pair were disciplined for drinking alcohol during a three-day get-together in Teddington, southwest London. Leicester centre Tuilagi, 26, was only recalled to the England fold last Thursday, a succession of injuries having prevented him from playing for his country since March 2016. New Zealand-born Sale wing Solomona, 23, made his England bow during a two-Test tour of Argentina in June, crowning his debut with a late match-winning try in a 38-34 win in San Juan. —AFP

Captains go for youth in Solheim Cup selections

ST ANDREWS: US captain Juli Inkster added a pair of rookies to her Solheim Cup team for matches that will see plenty of new faces. Inkster, the captain for the second straight time, added 18-year-old Angel Yin and Austin Ernst to her 10 automatic qualifiers. She passed over the experience in Paula Creamer and six-time Solheim Cup veteran Angela Stanford. Creamer, a captain's pick in 2015, will miss her first Solheim Cup since she turned pro.

"This has been a really tough day," said Inkster, herself a nine-time Solheim Cup participant. "I don't know if there's ever been so many people in the running for two captain's picks. I could have gone a lot of different ways. But in the end I went with my gut, and who I thought deserved a chance to play. I hope it turns out OK. That's all I can say."

The Solheim Cup is Aug. 18-20 at Des Moines Golf and Country Club. The Americans rallied to beat Europe two years ago in Germany and have a 9-5 record in the series that dates to 1990. The 10 qualifiers for the United States were Women's PGA champion Danielle Kang, Cristie Kerr, Jessica Korda, Brittany Lang, Stacy Lewis, Brittany Lincicome, Gerina Piller, Lizette Salas, Lexi Thompson and Michelle Wie. All but Kang have played in the matches.

European captain Annika Sorenstam also preferred youth rather than familiarity with the Solheim's uniquely partisan atmosphere. Former Women's British Open champion Catriona Matthew - an eight-time Solheim Cup player - was one of those left disappointed, although the 48-year old Scot will still make the trip to Iowa as one of Sorenstam's assistant captains.

"It is always hard to say 'no' to someone who lives for the Solheim Cup," Sorenstam said. "She was involved in the plans and knew the players we were talking about and that made it awkward at times. But she has been strong and mature and I am happy to have her on the team either way."

Four of Europe's players - Emily Pedersen of Denmark, Madelene Sagstrom of Sweden and English pair Georgia Hall and Florentine Parker - will be making their Solheim Cup debuts, with Pedersen and Sagstrom two of Sorenstam's four picks.

The other wild cards - Anna Nordqvist and Caroline Masson - will be making their fifth and third appearances in Europe's colors, respectively. Rounding out the European team were Carlotta Ciganda, Charley Hull, Karine Icher, Suzann Pettersen, Melissa Reid and Jodi Ewart Shadoff. — AP

AKRON: Hideki Matsuyama, from Japan, holds up The Gary Player Cup trophy after the final round of the Bridgestone Invitational golf tournament at Firestone Country Club, Sunday, in Akron, Ohio. Matsuyama finished the tournament at 16-under par.—AP

KIB's showjumping team prepares for next season in The Netherlands

KUWAIT: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced that the team of showjumping champions it sponsors, and who compete under the Bank's name, recently departed for a training camp in The Netherlands in preparation for the upcoming equestrian season. The KIB showjumping team, which features jockeys Ghazi Al-Juraei, Ahmad Al-Mudaheka, Abdullah Hamadah and Ahmad Al-Ansari, is set to take part in several international competitions across Europe in the upcoming few months.

"Our sponsorship of these talented athletes comes as part of our mission to offer support and encouragement to the youth of Kuwait, especially in the field of sports," said Nawaf Najia, Manager of the Corporate Communications Unit at KIB. "In supporting these young talents, we hope to boost the local sports culture and help this generation of rising sports stars make a name for themselves on the regional, and even international, sports scene. The KIB showjumping team's slew of accolades in various local and international competitions is the best testament to what our young athletes can achieve, and at KIB we are proud to be a part of their journey."

Najia continued by praising the strong performance delivered by the different members of the showjumping team. He stressed that their unwavering commitment to continuous training has been a clear factor which has led to the team's remarkable progress. He added: "By continuing to succeed and excel on multiple levels, the showjumping team has managed to pave the road for many aspiring jockeys, and these young champions continue to inspire an entire generation of upcoming equestrian talents. We wish these young equestrians the very best of luck and we hope to see even greater successes in the upcoming season, both regionally and internationally."

On his part, Ghazi Al-Juraei, one of the team's jockeys and a member of the Board of Directors of the Hunting and Equestrian Club, expressed his delight for participating with his teammates in this intensive training camp. He also lauded the financial and moral support offered by KIB, represented by the Bank's Chairman, Sheikh Mohammad Jarrah Al Sabah, as the Bank seeks to nurture this noble sport, with it long, rich history dating back several generations. Al-Juraei further noted that in preparation for next season's tournaments, the showjumping team has purchased new horses from the Netherlands for more enhanced training.

Meanwhile, Abdullah Hamadah noted that today, showjumping has reached impressive levels in Kuwait, managing to overcome many challenges and barriers along the way. As a result of this notable progress, the sport is expected to witness significant developments during the next season, as many equestrians from across sports clubs in Kuwait continue to prepare and train for the challenges that lie ahead.

GOLF

Hideki Matsuyama wins at Firestone with big finish

AKRON: Hideki Matsuyama was along for the ride four years ago when he watched Tiger Woods tear apart Firestone Country Club on his way to a 61 in the second round, which tied the South course record and sent Woods to a seven-shot victory in the Bridgestone Invitational.

"I just couldn't believe that anyone could shoot 61 on this golf course," Matsuyama said. He sure didn't expect that from himself Sunday, especially after warming up so badly that Matsuyama wasn't sure which the way ball was going. Some four hours later, the 25-year-old Japanese star had a place alongside Woods in the record book.

Matsuyama finished with three straight birdies to cap off a runaway victory with a 9-under 61, giving him his second World Golf Championship in nine month. It was the lowest final round in four decades at venerable Firestone, and it gave Matsuyama a five-shot victory over Zach Johnson. He finished at 16-under 264 and moved back to the top of the FedEx Cup standings.

Matsuyama found more than just his swing after he left the range. He might have found the game that first elevated him to the elite in golf last fall when he had four victories and two runner-up finishes over six straight tournaments. And the timing couldn't be better with the PGA Championship four days away, with a Japanese nation clamoring for its first major champion.

"I hope their expectations aren't too high," Matsuyama said. "But my expectations really at the beginning of this week weren't that high, either, and here we are." He won for the third time this season, joining Dustin Johnson and Jordan Spieth for most on the PGA Tour.

"Once he gets going, he just keeps the hammer down and keeps it going," Rory McIlroy said. "It's very impressive. He's played very impressively over the past 18 months with a lot of wins and a lot of good finishes. That's the caliber of player he is. I expect him to be right up there next week, as well."

Matsuyama, who started the final round two shots behind Thomas Pieters and Zach Johnson, quickly got into the hunt by chipping in from 60 feet for eagle. He took the lead for the first time on No. 6 with a 15-foot birdie, and then he was gone. Woods shot 61 twice at Firestone. Jose Maria Olazabal in 1990 and Sergio Garcia in 2014 were the other players to do it. Matsuyama knew from his experience playing with Woods in 2013 what it would take. And just like everything else on this day, he made it look easy.

BIG STEP

He spun a wedge back to 4 feet on the par-5 16th for birdie. He holed an 8-foot putt on the 17th hole and then closed with another approach and settled 6 feet away. Matsuyama, who began the final round two shots behind Johnson and Thomas Pieters, finished at 15-under 265.

He now has won two World Golf Championships by a combined 12 shots, having captured the HSBC Champions by seven shots in Shanghai last fall. Johnson, winless since his British Open victory two years ago at St. Andrews, pulled within one shot with a long birdie putt at the 11th, but he could do no better than pars the rest of the way and shot 68.

Pieters was never in the game after missing 4-foot par putts on successive holes to close out the front nine. He closed with a 71. The only other player with a chance was Charley Hoffman, who also was one shot behind on the back nine. Hoffman was three shots behind on the par-5 16th hole when his caddie suggested laying up because there was no place to get it close by going for the green 282 yards away.

"I'm trying to win a tournament," Hoffman said. "I'm tired of finishing second." He ripped a 3-wood onto the green and over the back into light rough, chipped weakly to 15 feet and made par anyway. He wound up with a 66 to finish third, though it was a big step in trying to make his first Presidents Cup team.

Matsuyama's final birdie broke by one shot the lowest final round by a winner at Firestone. Fulton Allem shot 62 when he won the old World Series of Golf in 1993. McIlroy got within one shot of the lead on the front nine with three birdies in six holes until his momentum stalled with a few missed putts. He stumbled on the back nine and shot 69, leaving him in a tie for fifth with Russell Knox, Paul Casey and Adam Hadwin.

Spieth closed with a 68 and tied for 13th in his last tournament before he goes for the career Grand Slam in the PGA Championship. After the Bridgestone Invitational, add one more player - Matsuyama - to the list of major obstacles in his way. "I haven't won a major yet. I have a lot of work left to do," Matsuyama said. "But that's not to say that I don't have confidence." — AP

Autistic golfer Lee dreams of Green Jacket

ANSEONG: Golf is among the most solitary of sports, its players engaged in a constant struggle with themselves as they compete against the implacable opponent of par.

But for autistic newly qualified professional Simon Seungmin Lee, it is a way to escape from his enclosed self and engage with the world. The 20-year-old South Korean, who grew up in the US, has been medically assessed as having the communication skills of a child half his age-and the socialisation abilities of a 10-month-old baby.

But six years after taking up the clubs, and following five failed attempts, he secured professional status at a Korea PGA trial in May-one of the few autistic people to do so anywhere in the world. His next goal is a tour card at the Korea PGA qualifying school in November. "I love golf," said Lee, who has difficulty speaking and whose mother helped him communicate throughout the interview. "I want to win the Masters," he added.

'GOOD NIGHT, MOTHER'

Lee started showing symptoms in his early childhood in the United States where his father, a South Korean diplomat, was stationed. "He started avoiding eye contact and replying with what the other person had just said. My heart sank one day when I said, 'Good night Seungmin', and he replied 'Good night Seungmin', instead of 'Good night mother'," she said of the phenomenon known as echolalia.

He tends to show attachments to certain objects - another common symptom - most notably a Patrick the Starfish character doll he was given when the family went to the Universal Studios theme park in Orlando, Florida 10 years ago.

Asked by his mother who he would rescue first from a sinking ship, her or the doll, Lee grimaced and groaned, unable to make up his mind. At age eight, he was placed in a special education system in the US, where he started playing ice hockey as a sports therapy. Six years later, he turned to golf, which he had been practising during summer vacations.

MUSCLE MOVEMENT

Autistic golfers are not completely unprecedented. Moe Norman, who won 55 Canadian Tour and other Canadian events from the 1950s to the 1970s, is believed to have suffered from the disorder. A metronomically reliable hitter of the ball, he has been described as "a supernaturally gifted yet cruelly misunderstood athlete".

Lee is cognitively impaired, but has a remarkable rote memory and his motor skills appear to be highly developed, according to his golf coach Kim Jong-Pil. "I think he was born as a golfer," he said.

When they started working together, teaching him was harder than instructing 20 normal athletes at the same time, Kim said. "As he has trouble communicating, I had to teach him with actions and poses, not by words, showing him every right pose and proper muscle movement and fixing his own by touching him," he said.

Etiquette was another challenge, with Lee not understanding why he should stay quiet when other players were teeing off. But once he learned the ropes, he never looked back. "All I worry now is he is practising too hard," said the coach. But Lee's autism may act as an advantage in competition, he said, when pressure can adversely affect performance. "Unlike ordinary athletes, he is not so tense in matches and his concentration remains high throughout a round," Kim said. Lee's caddy Kim Bong-Sub, also a professional golfer, said Lee is especially strong in approach shots and putting, but has trouble making decisions-often the case with autistics-such as whether to lob the ball or roll it towards the hole.

MAKING THE CUT

Golf is hugely popular in South Korea, whose women players dominate the global game, taking five of the top seven places on the current LPGA money list. Lee made his debut on the country's professional golf tour at the KPGA Caido Golden V1 Open in June by invitation. He failed to make the cut, but has secured sponsorship from South Korea's Hana Financial Group - a rarity for someone at his level. "As a patient suffering from developmental disorder, what he has achieved is remarkable indeed," said company spokesman Paul Park. Lee's mother Bahk Jiae said she hoped to see her son set an example as a successful athlete with a disability.

"We all hugged with each other and cried" when he qualified for the professional ranks, she said. "I was so moved when he said: 'Mom, thank you. I am sorry for having caused you so much trouble', she said. "I never thought he was able to put his feelings into such phrases." —AFP

India's 'Faith Runner' falters on the final straight

—MUMBAI: Tormented by blisters, illness and injuries, Indian ultra-marathoner Samir Singh got to within 36 kilometres of his goal of running 10,000km in 100 days when pain and exhaustion beat him. Singh, dubbed "The Faith Runner" and inevitably compared to Forrest Gump, spent nearly three months running between Mumbai's slums and business district using donated clothes and equipment, and living on just $3 a day. At the end of his attempt on Sunday, the 5ft 7ins (170cm) running coach, who also suffered stomach problems and viral fever, weighed just 40 kilogrammes (88 pounds).

Singh started on April 29 in Mumbai's scorching heat, and has been running through the monsoon rains without skipping a day. He needed to clock 150km (93 miles) on the final day on Sunday, after falling behind schedule through illness.

But the 44-year-old could only complete 114km, falling agonisingly short of his target-which was the equivalent of about a quarter of the Earth's circumference. "He was plagued by gastro-intestinal infections and contracted viral fever but has run 9,964.19 kms in 100 days," Vikram Bhatti, who handled Singh's campaign, told AFP.

Dressed in a blue sports vest, Singh started each day in the early hours from the northern Mumbai slums and headed to the business district in the city's south. "My journey of running 100 kilometres per day is very challenging but I wanted to show the endurance limit of human spirit," Singh told AFP ahead of the final run.

RUNNING SORE

Friends mocked the man from Madhya Pradesh state for taking on the challenge, but it became an attempt that caught the public imagination. "I survived without a job for the last nine months and people have come forward and supported me with donations, shoes, clothes and equipment," Singh said. He had a GPS watch, a basic mobile phone for emergencies and 200 rupees ($3.14) a day. Singh said he particularly enjoyed his meal of rice and spicy lentils, after every run. The five-time ultra-marathon winner lost 16 kilos (35 pounds) during the challenge as his exertions took their toll.

"I have focused on my goals with determination and nurtured my dreams despite cracked heels, fractured joints and legs," Singh said. Singh was spotted one day by Mumbai documentary-makers Vandana and Vikram Bhatti, who christened him 'The Faith Runner'.

"We met him on the 47th day of his challenge and were taken aback by his story. So, we have been running a Facebook campaign to create awareness and generate funds for Samir," Vandana Bhatti said. — AFP

Samir Singh

SYDNEY: In this file photo dated Friday, Sept 15, 2000, the 1956 sprint champion Betty Cuthbert who is confined to a wheelchair with Multiple Sclerosis, waves as she is pushed by three-time silver medal winner Raelene Boyle as they carry the Olympic torch during the opening ceremony of the 2000 Olympics in Sydney. Betty Cuthbert, the only runner to win Olympic gold medals in the 100, 200 and 400-meter sprints, has died in Western Australia, aged 79. — AP

Aussie Olympic legend Betty Cuthbert dead

SYDNEY: Australian Olympic icon Betty Cuthbert, the only athlete to ever win gold in the 100m, 200m, and 400m, has died aged 79 after a long battle with multiple sclerosis, officials said yesterday. Cuthbert shot to fame as a little-known 18-year-old at the 1956 Melbourne Olympics, winning the 100m, 200m and 4x100m relay, earning her the nickname "Golden Girl" by local media.

She suffered a hamstring injury at the Rome Games four years later and briefly retired, before being coaxed back to the track to win the 400m at the 1964 Olympics in Tokyo. During her career, she set nine world records, four of them in 1958, and remains the only athlete, male or female, to win Olympic gold in the 100m, 200m and 400m.

Swimmer Ian Thorpe is the only Australian to claim more Olympic gold medals, with five. "Betty was the Golden Girl of the track and a national heroine," said Australian Olympic Committee president John Coates. "It's very sad to lose such a great champion. Betty battled her illness for many years and showed tremendous courage, but more importantly she always managed to smile."

Athletics Australia president Mark Arbib called her "inspiring". "She is the only athlete, male or female, to win Olympic gold in the 100m, 200m and 400m, with her trophy cabinet also including three medals from the Commonwealth Games," he said.

"She will be forever remembered as a legend of the sport and a trailblazer for our female athletes." Born in Sydney, she moved to West Australia in later life after being diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1969, which confined to a wheelchair. She returned to the spotlight in 2000 when she took part in the ceremony to light the cauldron at the Sydney Olympic Games. Cuthbert was an inaugural member of the Athletics Australia Hall of Fame and she was inducted into the IAAF Hall of Fame in 2012.

"Rest in peace Betty Cuthbert-an inspiration and a champion on and off the track," tweeted Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, while fellow track legend Cathy Freeman said: "Thank you for the inspirational memories, Betty Cuthbert." —AFP

ATHLETICS

Tori Bowie - from foster child to fame

LONDON: Tori Bowie's dream of one day seeing a sign in her home community saying 'welcome to Sand Hill home to Tori Bowie' looks almost certain to be realised after her 100m win at the world athletics championships.

For the sport of athletics the 26-year-old American's victory-courtesy of her habitual hurling herself at the line which denied diminutive Ivorian Marie Josee Ta Lou the gold-will be a welcome antidote to the largely hostile reception of her compatriot and two-time dope cheat Justin Gatlin's win in the men's race the night before.

For Bowie-who finally tasted gold in an individual event after lesser medals in the Olympic 100 and 200m as well as the 2015 100 world final-it will also be a moment of glory shared with her paternal grandmother and her role model, Bobbie Smith.

But for Smith, Bowie says she and her sister Tamara-younger by just under a year-would have been taken on by foster parents. "My mother dropped us off at a foster care centre when I was just two," Bowie told NBC last year.

"But my grandmother ended up fighting for us and winning custody of us. "We didn't have much but she gave us character," added Bowie, who has shortened her name from the unusual Fentorish.

'DON'T THINK OF BOYS'

Smith for her part had no hesitation in assuming her responsibilities to her discarded grand daughters even though she had five children of her own to bring up in the tiny enclave in Mississippi which is so small Bowie says there are no 'stop lights'. She said her own grandmother had taken in six grandchildren, including herself, despite the hardship. "So I knew if she could take in six, I could take in two. That helped motivate me and let me know I could do it," the 70-year-old told the Clarion-Ledger.

Bowie, who has done some modelling and is keen to get into acting with her goal to attract the attention of gospel film legend Tyler Perry, says she and Tamara are eternally cognisant of their grandmother's sacrifices.

"To me, it's like she really hasn't had a life herself because she has given her entire life to us," Bowie told MSNnews.com last year. Smith, who is still referred to as 'Mama' by both the sisters, instilled in the two girls from an early age what their priorities should be so they could experience a different life to the impoverished one their parents and she had done.

"I encouraged them to go to school and don't think of boys at young age and they took my advice," she said. Bowie, who says she was a tomboy in her youth going out and playing basketball with her male relations as well as going shooting with them, has shown that on the track and Tamarra, whilst a talented athlete in her own right, is studying law.

Smith for her part is especially proud of how the two girls have turned out. "It makes me think about no matter how bad things can get or start in your life or be in your life, it's still good things that can come out of it," she told WBTV. Bowie, who is also determined to emulate her grandmother's example in taking disadvantaged children under her wing and encouraging them that they can succeed, is mindful of another piece of advice Smith gave them.

"My grandmother told me a long time ago, 'I don't care if you're sweeping a porch for a living. She said, you need to do your best.' "So I've lived by that every single day," Bowie told WBTV.— AFP

LONDON: United States' Tori Bowie celebrates after winning the gold medal in the Women's 100 meters final during the World Athletics Championships in London Sunday. — AP

RUGBY

Savea dropped from NZ's Rugby Championship squad

WELLINGTON: Blockbusting wing Julian Savea has been dropped from the All Blacks with a fit-again Nehe Milner-Skudder back in the frame in a 33-man squad named yesterday for the Rugby Championship.

With the exception of Milner-Skudder and a recall for prop Nepo Laulala, the line-up reflects the frontline players used in the recent drawn series against the British and Irish Lions.

Savea, known as "The Bus" and with 46 tries from 55 Tests, had been a regular in the 11 jersey for the All Blacks since 2012, but he now finds himself dumped on his 27th birthday. He looked in a precarious position when only required for the third Test in the Lions series, and was then relegated to the bench by the Wellington Hurricanes for their Super Rugby semi-final against South Africa's Golden Lions.

Milner-Skudder has been making a rapid return to form after being out of rugby for most of the past two years with injury problems. He last played for the All Blacks in the 2015 World Cup final.

Of the two All Blacks to take off-shore contracts following the Lions Tests, Charlie Faumuina's departure has opened the door for Laulala. But the selectors opted not to replace Aaron Cruden, instead reducing their fly-half ranks to Beauden Barrett and Lima Sopoaga. Damian McKenzie has been named as a replacement for fullback Ben Smith, who will take an extended break from the game following the first two matches.

"For us, it's case of re-establishing ourselves and building on our good work from last year and during the recent Lions series," coach Steve Hansen said.

"There were some clear things learnt in the Lions series and this is a great chance for us to implement those; to continue to grow our skill execution and the mental side of our game, and develop our leadership and the leadership group."

TRAVEL WORRIES

Hansen said he also had to be mindful of the impact that the Rugby Championship travel, which involves playing in Australia, South Africa and Argentina, would have on the All Blacks' end-of-year northern hemisphere tour. "There is a massive travelling component to the Championship, which comes at a cost at the end of the year, so we'll be looking to implement some new strategies to try and overcome that," he said.

Super Rugby champions Canterbury Crusaders provide the bulk of the squad with 10 players, while there are eight from the Hurricanes, six from the Waikato Chiefs, five Otago Highlanders and four Auckland Blues.

New Zealand squad:

Forwards: Dane Coles (Wellington Hurricanes), Nathan Harris (Waikato Chiefs) Codie Taylor (Canterbury Crusaders), Wyatt Crockett (Crusaders), Owen Franks (Crusaders), Nepo Laulala (Chiefs), Joe Moody (Crusaders), Ofa Tu'ungafasi (Auckland Blues), Scott Barrett (Crusaders), Brodie Retallick (Chiefs), Luke Romano (Crusaders), Sam Whitelock (Crusaders), Sam Cane (Chiefs), Vaea Fifita (Hurricanes), Jerome Kaino (Blues), Kieran Read (capt, Crusaders), Ardie Savea (Hurricanes), Liam Squire (Otago Highlanders)

Backs: Tawera Kerr-Barlow (Chiefs), TJ Perenara (Hurricanes), Aaron Smith (Highlanders), Beauden Barrett (Hurricanes), Lima Sopoaga (Highlanders), Ryan Crotty (Crusaders), Ngani Laumape (Hurricanes), Anton Lienert-Brown (Chiefs) Sonny Bill Williams (Blues), Jordie Barrett (Hurricanes), Israel Dagg (Crusaders), Rieko Ioane (Blues), Nehe Milner-Skudder (Hurricanes), Waisake Naholo (Highlanders), Ben Smith (Highlanders). Utility replacement: Damian McKenzie (Chiefs). — AFP

LONDON: New Zealand's Tomas Walsh competes in men's shot put final during the World Athletics Championships in London Sunday. — AP

N Zealand's Walsh deposes champion Kovacs in shot

LONDON: Tomas Walsh of New Zealand won the men's shot put world title on Sunday with a stunning series of throws climaxing with a best of 22.03 metres. The 25-year-old-a former builder which he credits for his body strength edged out America's defending champion Joe Kovacs, who posted a best of 21.66.

"To pull it out on the last one is awesome," said Walsh, who revealed he had been undergoing treatment on his groin prior to the final. "I knew that (Olympic champion) Ryan Crouser was going to attack on the last attempt and it is so special for me to know that I was able to attack, too.

"Whether it was a fierce throw or not, I tried my hardest in the last throw and it worked. I did not want to do 22m in the qualification and then lose it in the final." There was a heated finale, though, when Kovacs's final throw, that appeared to be over 22m, was ruled out by a red flag.

He demanded an explanation but there was to be no going back on the decision as his trailing foot clipped the board as he launched the shot. However, with the heat of battle having cooled Kovacs was satisfied with his silver although he took added satisfaction that he would have won if the throw had been allowed. "I am happy to get on the podium, of course, but I was ready to come back for the gold," he said. "My last throw, which I did protest, was long enough to win. Despite the result of the protest, I am just glad it was enough to win."

Croatia's Stipe Zunic took the bronze with 21.46m whilst there was crushing disappointment for Crouser, who could finish only sixth with 21.20m. Walsh pumped the air with his fist after his second throw and he had good reason to as he took the lead from Kovacs, who had hurled his shot out to 21.46.

Walsh consolidated his lead with his third effort recording a mark of 21.75m but things weren't going well for Crouser, who slipped to fifth by the third round. The American's third effort was a massive throw but it was ruled a foul. The pressure increased on Crouser as his fourth throw also resulted in a foul and he went into the sixth and final round in sixth spot. However, there was to be no grandstand finale for the 24-year-old. — AFP

NEW YORK: Yasiel Puig #66 of the Los Angeles Dodgers slides safely home for a run in the ninth inning as Travis d'Arnaud #18 of the New York Mets can't come up with the ball at Citi Field on Sunday in the Flushing neighborhood of the Queens borough of New York City. — AFP

BASEBALL

Wieters hits grand slam as Nationals beat Cubs

CHICAGO: Matt Wieters hit a tiebreaking grand slam off Carl Edwards Jr. in Washington's five-run eighth inning, helping the Nationals beat the Chicago Cubs 9-4 on Sunday. Bryce Harper started the winning rally with a one-out infield single against Mike Montgomery. Ryan Zimmerman doubled against Edwards and Daniel Murphy was walked intentionally to load the bases. Washington then grabbed control in a span of two pitches. Edwards (3-3) hit Anthony Rendon, tying it at 4, and Wieters followed with a drive over the wall in center for his third career grand slam. Wieters drove in five runs and Brian Goodwin homered for the NL East-leading Nationals, who had dropped three of four. Willson Contreras homered twice for NL Central-leading Chicago. Brandon Kintzler (3-2) pitched a scoreless inning for his first win since he was acquired in a trade with Minnesota.

YANKEES 8, INDIANS 1

Luis Severino overpowered Cleveland's lineup into the seventh inning, Jacoby Ellsbury hit a three-run triple and rookie Aaron Judge hammered a three-run homer, sending the Yankees to a win over the Indians. Severino (9-4) gave up Michael Brantley's homer in the first and then toyed with the Indians, striking out nine and allowing just three runners to reach. He didn't give up his second hit until there were two outs in the seventh and was pulled by manager Joe Girardi before getting a roaring ovation from several thousand New York fans. The All-Star right-hander is 4-0 with a 0.71 ERA in his last four starts. Ellsbury's triple came in New York's five-run sixth off Carlos Carrasco (10-5), and Judge connected in the seventh for his 35th homer - only No. 5 since the All-Star break - to give New York an 8-1 lead.

ASTROS 7, BLUE JAYS 6

Juan Centeno hit an RBI single with two outs that capped a four-run rally in the ninth inning, lifting the Astros over the Blue Jays. Jose Altuve singled off All-Star closer Roberto Osuna (3-3) to begin the Houston ninth and one-out singles by Yuli Gurriel and Marwin Gonzalez loaded the bases. Carlos Beltran grounded into a forceout that scored a run, and Alex Bregman hit a tying, two-run triple. Centeno followed with a liner over the head of leaping first baseman Justin Smoak and into shallow right field to win it for the AL West leaders. Nori Aoki had a two-run homer, his first hit since being traded from Houston to Toronto last Monday, during a four-run seventh that gave the Blue Jays a 6-3 lead. Francis Martes (4-1) pitched 1 2/3 scoreless innings for the win. Osuna allowed five hits and four runs while getting only two outs for his seventh blown save this season.

CARDINALS 13, REDS 4

Jose Martinez hit his first grand slam during the Cardinals' nine-run fourth inning, and St. Louis overcame Adam Wainwright's rough return from the disabled list, beating the Reds. The Cardinals took two of three in the series. They're 5-8 against Cincinnati this season. St. Louis sent 13 batters to the plate for nine runs in the fourth, matching its biggest inning of the season. Martinez connected off Homer Bailey (3-6), who gave up a career-high 10 runs in only 3 1/3 innings. Bailey has been hit hard in his return from surgery to remove bone spurs from his pitching elbow last February. The Cardinals overcame a rugged first inning by Wainwright, who had spent the last 12 days on the DL with a stiff back. Joey Votto hit a three-run homer, and Wainwright threw 39 pitches before retiring a batter. Wainwright left after three innings and 88 pitches. Brett Cecil (2-4) allowed three hits in three innings for the win.

RAYS 2, BREWERS 1

Steven Souza Jr. homered off Milwaukee reliever Jacob Barnes leading off the ninth inning Sunday to lift the Rays to a win over the Brewers. Souza's 24th home run helped the Rays salvage a win in a three-game series in which they scored only two runs. It was Souza's first walkoff homer with the Rays. Most of the game was a pitchers' duel between the Rays' Chris Archer and the Brewers' Jimmy Nelson. Tommy Hunter (1-2) got the win after tossing 1 1/3 innings of relief. Barnes (3-3) threw only two pitches in relief of Nelson, who gave up one run on six hits while striking out nine in eight innings.

MARLINS 4, BRAVES 1

Jose Urena pitched six strong innings, Marcell Ozuna hit a three-run homer and the Marlins avoided a three-game sweep with a victory over the Braves. Urena (10-5) won for the third time in four starts, allowing one run and three hits, walking one and striking out three. Lucas Sims (0-2), making his second career start, gave allowed four runs in six innings. The Braves' 2012 first-round draft pick trailed 4-0 in the first after hitting Giancarlo Stanton with a pitch, walking Christian Yelich and giving up consecutive homers to Ozuna, his 26th, and J.T. Realmuto, his 13th.

PIRATES 5, PADRES 4, 12 innings

Sean Rodriquez homered in the 12th inning to give the Pirates a win over the Padres. Rodriguez, acquired from Atlanta a day earlier, lifted a 1-1 pitch off Padres reliever Buddy Baumann (0-1) over the left-field wall. Rookie reliever Dovydas Neverauskas (1-0) pitched two scoreless innings to get his first career win. The Pirates took two of three from the Padres after losing their past four series. Entering this series, Pittsburgh had lost eight of 11 since a six-game winning streak from July 16-21. Pirates closer Felipe Rivero gave up two walks and a single to load the bases loaded with two outs in the ninth inning before Manuel Margot's two-run single tied the score 4-4.

PHILLIES 3, ROCKIES 2

Cameron Rupp hit a two-run double in the ninth inning, and the Phillies rallied to beat the Rockies. Rupp, who had been thrown out at home an inning earlier, drove the first pitch he saw from closer Greg Holland (2-2) into the gap in left-center field, scoring Maikel Franco and Hyun Soo Kim. It was the second blown save in 36 chances for Holland. Rupp finished with three hits and Franco homered for Philadelphia, which snapped a five-game losing streak. Edubray Ramos (1-7) pitched the eighth inning and Hector Neris got the last three outs for his 11th save. The Rockies took a 2-1 lead in the seventh off starter Aaron Nola. The game was tied with two outs in the seventh when pinch-hitter Raimel Tapia worked a walk off Nola. He stole second and scored on Charlie Blackmon's third double of the game.

GIANTS 6, DIAMONDBACKS 3

Jeff Samardzija pitched into the seventh inning to win his third consecutive start and the Giants beat the Diamondbacks. The Giants entered the day with the second-worst record in the NL, but jumped on Diamondbacks starter Patrick Corbin early and held on to win the series. Arizona still has a hold on the second NL wild-card spot despite dropping four of its last seven. Samardzija (7-11) allowed three runs on five hits before leaving after giving up a one-out single to Katel Marte then walking Chris Hermann in the seventh. Albert Suarez retired seven batters for his first career save.

RED SOX 6, WHITE SOX 3

Chris Young hit two homers, including a tiebreaking three-run shot after the batter in front was walked intentionally, to lift the Red Sox to a win over the White Sox. Young added an RBI double and had a solo homer to help the AL East-leading Red Sox complete a four-game sweep of the White Sox. Chicago lost its sixth consecutive game, and 23rd in its last 27. The White Sox were swept in a four-game series in Fenway Park for the first time since July of 1988. Doug Fister (2-5) allowed three runs and eight hits over 6 1/3 innings, striking out a season-high seven for his second straight win. Craig Kimbrel, the third reliever, pitched the ninth for his 27th save. Mike Pelfrey (3-10) gave up six runs and eight hits in 5 2/3 innings. He's 0-5 with a 7.78 ERA in his last eight starts.

ORIOLES 12, TIGERS 3

Jonathan Schoop, Chris Davis and Trey Mancini homered in succession during a four-run first inning that sent the Orioles past the Tigers. Joey Rickard and Manny Machado also connected for the Orioles, who led 8-0 after four innings and cruised to their seventh win in nine games. All five home runs were hit off Anibal Sanchez (3-2), who yielded a career-high tying eight runs and 10 hits in three-plus innings. Machado went 4 for 5 with five RBIs, and Rickard had a career-best four hits and scored three runs. Backed by all that firepower, Ubaldo Jimenez (5-7) earned his first win in five starts since July 9. The right-hander pitched 5 2/3 innings, giving up one run and nine hits. Nicholas Castellanos homered for the Tigers, who had to settle for a split of the four-game series after winning the first two.

TWINS 6, RANGERS 5

Max Kepler, Brian Dozier and Eddie Rosario homered to help the Minnesota Twins dig out of a five-run hole and beat the Rangers. Jose Berrios (10-5) gave up five runs on six hits and struck out six in five innings, Trevor Hildenberger threw two innings of scoreless relief and Robbie Grossman drove in the go-ahead run for the Twins, who were missing slugger Miguel Sano for the second straight game because of a sore left hand. Adrian Beltre hit his 455th career homer and Joey Gallo also went deep for the Rangers, who were shut out after a five-run first inning. Nick Martinez gave up five runs on five hits with five strikeouts and two walks in a game that was delayed 32 minutes by rain in the second inning.

ATHLETICS 11, ANGELS 10

Bruce Maxwell's two-run single completed a dramatic five-run, two-out comeback in the eighth inning, and the Athletics stunned the Angels. The Angels led 10-5 after the sixth but couldn't hold on against an A's team that hammered them with 18 hits, including three home runs and seven doubles. Down 10-6 in the eighth, Khris Davis hit a three-run homer off reliever Blake Parker to ignite the Oakland comeback. Parker had not allowed a run in 27 consecutive appearances at home. After Ryon Healy doubled, the Angels went to Bud Norris (1-5), but the closer gave up a run-scoring single to Chad Pinder, a double to Matt Chapman and then the two-run single to Maxwell. Josh Smith (2-0) picked up the win in relief. Blake Treinen, Oakland's seventh reliever, earned his fifth overall save and second with the A's.

MARINERS 8, ROYALS 7, 1st Game
ROYALS 9, MARINERS 1, 2nd Game

Rookie Jakob Junis pitched eight sharp innings and the Kansas City Royals beat the Seattle Mariners 9-1 to split their doubleheader Sunday. Nelson Cruz homered twice and drove in four runs as the Mariners held off the Royals 8-7 in the first game. Whit Merrifield homered in both games for the Royals. Junis (4-2), who was added to Kansas City's roster as the extra 26th man for the twinbill, allowed one run. He retired his final 19 batters after giving up an RBI double to Danny Espinosa in the second inning. Junis walked none and struck out a career-high seven. Melky Cabrera hit a three-run homer off Erasmo Ramirez (4-4) during a four-run third inning. It was Cabrera's first home run since the Royals acquired him in a July 30 trade with the Chicago White Sox. Cabrera also had an RBI double. Eric Hosmer homered and drove in three runs for the Royals. —AP

MLB Results/Standings

LA Dodgers 8, NY Mets 0; Kansas City 9, Seattle 1; San Francisco 6, Arizona 3; Oakland 11, LA Angels 10; Philadelphia 3, Colorado 2; Washington 9, Chicago Cubs 4; Seattle 8, Kansas City 7; Minnesota 6, Texas 5; Houston 7, Toronto 6; Boston 6, Chicago White Sox 3; Baltimore 12, Detroit 3; Miami 4, Atlanta 1; Pittsburgh 5, San Diego 4 (12 innings); Tampa Bay 2, Milwaukee 1; NY Yankees 8, Cleveland 1; St. Louis 13, Cincinnati 4.

American League	W	L	PCT	GB
Eastern Division				
Boston	63	49	.563	-
NY Yankees	59	51	.536	3
Tampa Bay	58	55	.513	5.5
Baltimore	55	56	.495	7.5
Toronto	52	59	.468	10.5
Central Division				
Cleveland	59	50	.541	-
Kansas City	57	53	.518	2.5
Minnesota	53	56	.486	6
Detroit	51	59	.464	8.5
Chicago White Sox	41	68	.376	18
Western Division				
Houston	71	40	.640	-
Seattle	57	56	.504	15
LA Angels	55	57	.491	16.5
Texas	53	58	.477	18
Oakland	50	62	.446	21.5

National League				
Eastern Division				
Washington	65	44	.596	-
Miami	52	57	.477	13
Atlanta	51	59	.464	14.5
NY Mets	49	60	.450	16
Philadelphia	40	69	.367	25
Central Division				
Chicago Cubs	58	52	.527	-
Milwaukee	59	54	.522	0.5
St. Louis	55	56	.495	3.5
Pittsburgh	54	57	.486	4.5
Cincinnati	45	66	.405	13.5
Western Division				
LA Dodgers	79	32	.712	-
Colorado	64	48	.571	15.5
Arizona	63	48	.568	16
San Diego	49	61	.445	29.5
San Francisco	44	69	.389	36

CHICAGO: Washington Nationals shortstop Wilmer Difo, left, watches as Chicago Cubs' Ian Happ steals second base during the fourth inning of a baseball game, Sunday, in Chicago. —AP

Oscar ban harming China title hopes: Villas-Boas

SHANGHAI: Andre Villas-Boas fears that the prolonged absence of banned Brazilian star Oscar could torpedo Shanghai SIPG's Chinese Super League title hopes. The Portuguese coach saw his side finish the weekend three points behind leaders Guangzhou Evergrande following a dry 0-0 home draw with third-placed Tianjin Quanjian on Sunday.

Both sides failed to create many chances during an ill-tempered game and Villas-Boas was left to rue the absence of attacking midfielder Oscar, the Asian-record, 60-million-euro man who is reaching the end of an eight-game ban for triggering a brawl in a CSL game in June.

Oscar returns this month but former Chelsea and Tottenham Hotspur manager Villas-Boas believes it is no coincidence that his team has hit a rough patch of form during the player's lengthy suspension.

"It was the decision by the CFA (Chinese Football Association) to suspend one of the best players in the world for eight games, so what can we do?" a clearly frustrated Villas-Boas asked after the game.

"Of course we miss Oscar. It's been a long spell without him... it's just too much. "We brought him for a reason. We ended up loaning one of the most creative players last season, (the Argentine Dario) Conca, to Brazil and creativity is one of the things of my teams and of course we miss players of his calibre.

"Our bad spell responds to the fact that we had Oscar suspended for eight games." The CFA banned Oscar after accusing him of sparking an all-out brawl against Guangzhou R&F when he appeared to deliberately fire the ball at an opposing player.

In seven league games since, Shanghai have won only three times. Reigning champions Guangzhou Evergrande have also stumbled, but they beat Tianjin Teda 3-0 on Saturday after a sticky run to stay in the driving seat with just over half the CSL season gone.

Villas-Boas and Fabio Cannavaro, his opposite number at Tianjin Quanjian, were unhappy with some of the officiating in Sunday's stalemate. Shanghai's bruising forward Hulk and Tianjin's Alexandre Pato-two Brazilian internationals-were at the centre of a series of run-ins between the two sides.

Villas-Boas, already banned this season for two games for criticising the Oscar suspension, and Italy's Cannavaro both declined to elaborate on their grievances, fearing CFA punishment.

"I prefer not to answer because it can be controversial," the Portuguese said, when asked by AFP if he felt that the away side had targeted Hulk. — AFP

Neymar not bigger than Barca: President

BARCELONA: Barcelona president Josep Maria Bartomeu insisted no player is bigger than the Catalan giants yesterday in the wake of Neymar's world record 222 million euro ($264 million) move to Paris Saint-Germain. Bartomeu and his board are under pressure to wisely reinvest the huge sum, which more than doubled the previous record for a transfer fee, before the transfer window closes on August 31. "No player is above Barca," Bartomeu told the world congress of Barca supporters groups.

"You know that Neymar formed part of the success of our club, but Neymar is now history. He wanted to go. It was his decision although we did everything in our hands for him to stay." Barca were powerless to stop Neymar leaving after PSG met the buyout clause in the Brazilian's contract, which he had signed just last year.

However, Bartomeu defended himself from criticism that the club should have insisted on inserting a much higher buyout clause in that deal to fend off PSG's millions. Neymar's clause rose from 200 to 222 million from July 1 and would have jumped to 250 million had he entered the third year of the five-year deal.

"We foresaw that he could leave in the future, that is why we raised his buyout clause in the new contact," added Bartomeu. "Receiving this money allows us to face the future with guarantees to strengthen the team.

"When the doubts over his future began we were calm because his decision would be a good one "If he stayed we would maintain a great player and if he went, obviously paying his clause, we had the guarantee of being able to bring new players." Barca have been linked with a series of potential replacements for Neymar with Liverpool's Philippe Coutinho heading their wish list. Yet, Bartomeu promised to be act with "prudence" despite having to deal in a transfer market characterised by hyperinflation due to booming television rights deals. "The 222 million euros that we received for Neymar Jr will be administered with prudence, rigour and serenity," he said. —AFP

LIVERPOOL: This file photo taken on July 10, 2017 shows Everton's new signing, English striker Wayne Rooney (R) poses for a photograph with his new club shirt, held by Everton's Dutch manager Ronald Koeman (L) during a press conference at Goodison Park in Liverpool. Everton have splashed out on young English talents, as well as bringing Wayne Rooney back to the club after his record-breaking 13-year spell at Manchester United. — AFP

Big-spending Guardiola leads chase of Chelsea

LONDON: Empowered by a close-season transfer splurge of some £200 million ($264.8 million, 233.5 million euros), Manchester City are the early favourites to topple Premier League champions Chelsea. Pep Guardiola endured a bruising first season in English football as City failed to challenge for the title, eventually finishing 15 points adrift of Chelsea in third place.

The club reacted with a glut of new signings-three new full-backs in Kyle Walker, Benjamin Mendy and Danilo, plus goalkeeper Ederson and playmaker Bernardo Silva-and now look a force to be reckoned with.

"I think Manchester City are the team to beat," said Manchester United great Ryan Giggs in a recent Sky Sports column. "I looked at them towards the end of last season and the forward players they've got is scary." While City shimmered in attack, they frequently looked vulnerable in defence and resculpting the back four has been Guardiola's main priority. Brazilian Ederson replaces the error-prone Claudio Bravo in goal, while dynamic pair Walker and Mendy will add thrust on the flanks after becoming the world's two most expensive defenders.

City also have John Stones and Eliaquim Mangala on their books, giving them four of the most expensive defenders ever, but with total spending in the league having exceeded £900 million, Guardiola is unrepentant. "I would like to pay less for the club, for everybody, but the market is the market," said the City manager. "All the clubs spend a lot of money-not just us."

MOURINHO'S SECOND SEASON

Across town at Manchester United, Guardiola's old sparring partner Jose Mourinho is also looking to kick on after ending a difficult debut season with a silver flourish.

United finished outside the top four for the third time in four seasons, but secured a Champions League berth by winning the Europa League and also tasted glory in the League Cup.

Mourinho's teams traditionally peak in his second season and he has strengthened in each department with the acquisitions of Victor Lindelof, Nemanja Matic and Romelu Lukaku. Mourinho won the league in his second seasons at Porto, Real Madrid and Inter Milan, as well as in both of his stints at Chelsea, but he expects this season's title race to be an almighty scrap.

"Normally the second season should be better than the first, but again, this is modern football. The reality is totally different," he told ESPN.

"It's getting much harder for everyone, so we don't know." Chelsea, the champions, have thus far failed to significantly enhance a squad that now faces the twin rigours of a league title defence and Champions League campaign. Alvaro Morata has replaced the exiled Diego Costa up front, Tiemoue Bakayoko has taken Matic's place in midfield and Antonio Rudiger brings extra defensive cover, but Chelsea still look a few players short.

In the meantime, manager Antonio Conte says his main priority is to avoid what he has saltily called "the Mourinho season" in reference to the 10th-place finish that followed Chelsea's 2015 title win.

AMBITIOUS EVERTON

Chelsea were sensationally upstaged by Arsenal in last season's FA Cup final and lost to them again in Sunday's Community Shield, but Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger retains little margin for error.

While Wenger has pulled off the big-name signing of Alexandre Lacazette from Lyon, Alexis Sanchez and Mesut Ozil are now in the last years of their contracts and fan dissent will quickly return if results go awry. Mauricio Pochettino's Tottenham Hotspur are trusting in the same formula that swept them to second place last season and must adapt to a new temporary home at Wembley while White Hart Lane is rebuilt. Fourth last season, Liverpool have signed relatively modestly, adding Mohamed Salah, Dominic Solanke and Andrew Robertson to their ranks.

Both Jurgen Klopp's team and their title rivals will be mindful of the menace posed by Everton, whose ambitious transfer dealings articulate their determination to crash the top six.

Everton have splashed out on young English talents like Jordan Pickford and Michael Keane, as well as bringing Wayne Rooney back to the club after his record-breaking 13-year spell at Manchester United.

Having secured promotion from the Championship alongside Newcastle United, Brighton and Hove Albion and Huddersfield Town return to the top flight for the first time in 34 and 45 years respectively. In a novelty for the 2017-18 season, players suspected of diving will face retrospective disciplinary action that could result in two-game suspensions. — AFP

LONDON: This is a Sunday, April 2, 2017 file photo of Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola as he gestures during the English Premier League soccer match between Arsenal and Manchester City at the Emirates stadium in London. It's been another off season of comings and goings as Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola attempts to deepen his imprint at the Etihad Stadium by spending around $300 million. —AP

SOCCER

Real ready to go without Ronaldo against Man Utd

SKOPJE: Cristiano Ronaldo has finally returned to training with Real Madrid but the defending European champions are set to be without the Portuguese superstar in today's UEFA Super Cup clash with Manchester United in Skopje.

Ronaldo's summer has been overshadowed by accusations of tax evasion in Spain, which led to him being charged in a court near Madrid last week, while he was handed an extended summer break by his club after playing for Portugal at the Confederations Cup.

He only returned to training at the weekend, meaning it would be a major surprise if coach Zinedine Zidane were to include the 32-year-old against his former club in the match at the Philip II Arena in the Macedonian capital.

"He needed to rest. He has had his holidays and that was important," said Zidane of the man whose two goals helped propel Madrid to a 4-1 victory over Juventus in the Champions League final in Cardiff two months ago.

That victory saw Real become the first club to retain the trophy in the Champions League era and completed a glorious campaign in which they also won La Liga.

The season started with a 3-2 extra-time triumph against Sevilla in the Super Cup in the Norwegian city of Trondheim.

"Real Madrid is a team, a club, an institution that has hunger. We all know where we are and when you finish a season like last year winning, it helps you try to do the same thing coming into the new season," Zidane-whose team have Barcelona to come at the weekend in the Spanish Super Cup-said in a UEFA interview.

However, his side failed to record a victory during a pre-season tour of the United States that included a high-profile friendly encounter with Jose Mourinho's United in Santa Clara, California.

That International Champions Cup encounter ended in a 1-1 draw before United won on penalties. While the Spaniards have made two relatively low-key summer signings in Dani Ceballos from Betis and Theo Hernandez from Atletico Madrid, United have spent big ahead of their return to the Champions League.

The Europa League winners have added the defender Victor Lindelof from Benfica, the midfielder Nemanja Matic from Chelsea and Everton striker Romelu Lukaku and they wrapped up their preparations with a 2-1 win over Sampdoria in Dublin.

MOURINHO PLAYS DOWN REUNION

This match offers a chance for United to start the new campaign on a high before their opening Premier League game against West Ham United next Sunday.

In a glittering career Mourinho has not yet won the Super Cup-his Chelsea team lost on penalties to Bayern Munich in the 2013 edition.

The Portuguese is coming up against the club he coached for three years until 2013 — he did not leave the Spanish capital on the best of terms but he insisted that experience is not on his mind this week. "It's something I've been through many times. I left Porto and two months later I was facing them in the Champions League," he told UEFA.com .

"I left Chelsea and a few months later I was facing them with Manchester United. I never look at it in terms of taking on my former club, not at all. So I just look at Real Madrid as what they are: a big club, the European champions, and it's a great motivation for us to play against them." This annual meeting of the European champions and Europa League winners comes to the Balkan state after going to Prague, Cardiff, Tbilisi and Trondheim in recent years.

But in contrast to the cool conditions in Norway 12 months ago, temperatures in Skopje are expected to reach 40 degrees for much of the week.— AFP

VIVA, Real Madrid soccer training camp concludes

KUWAIT: VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, announced the conclusion of VIVA Real Madrid Soccer Academy's training camp 2017, in Madrid.

The training program included several workshops and activities educating the players on the best maneuvers, attacks, different scenarios and conditioned games. The program also focused on different technical areas, such as dribbling, short passing, turning and finishing. Players at their last day, take a tour inside the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium in Madrid, and had the chance to know closely the golden history of Real Madrid Team.

Commenting on this occasion, Abdulrazaq Bader Al-Essa, Corporate Communications Director at VIVA said: "We are proud of the Kuwaiti players who engaged in this training camp and demonstrated high and significant soccer skills. We shared those players this unrivalled experience during their trip and we hope they carry on in this journey to reach more success." He added: "VIVA will keep supporting the Kuwaiti youth athletes to fulfill their dreams and accomplish their goals."

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Sports

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India's 'Faith Runner' falters on the final straight 13

Tori Bowie, from foster child to fame 13

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MANCHESTER: England's Keaton Jennings, right, dives in but misses a catch from South Africa's captain Faf du Plessis, left, during day four of the Fourth Test at Emirates Old Trafford in Manchester, England, yesterday.— AP

Ali bowls England to South Africa series win

MANCHESTER: Moeen Ali finished a brilliant campaign with a five-wicket haul as England beat South Africa by 177 runs in the fourth Test at Old Trafford yesterday to seal a 3-1 series win.

Victory, achieved with more than a day to spare, also saw Joe Root triumphant in his first Test series as England captain. South Africa, set a huge 380 for victory, were bowled out for 202 shortly after tea on the fourth day when Ali took two wickets in two balls to remove Morne Morkel and Duanne Olivier.

That gave the off-spinner a return of five for 69 in 19.5 overs and 25 wickets in total in a series where he also scored 252 runs. This result meant England had won their first home Test series against South Africa since 1998. It was also just South Africa's second defeat in 20 away Test series, their other overseas campaign reverse in that sequence coming against India in 2015/16.

South Africa, 43 for three at lunch, saw Hashim Amla (83) and captain Faf du Plessis (61) put on 123 for the fourth wicket. But Ali then took three wickets for five runs in 11 balls-including the prize scalp of Amla-as the Proteas collapsed from 163 for three to 173 for six.

Earlier, Ali, both the man-of-the-match and the man of the series, made 75 not out off just 66 balls in England's second innings 243, having been dropped on 15. That left South Africa facing a mammoth chase, with no side having made more to win in the fourth innings of a Test at Old Trafford than England's 294 for four against New Zealand in 2008.

South Africa's already difficult task was not helped when they lost both openers, leaving them at 18 for two. Dean Elgar, who made a gritty second-innings hundred in England's 239-run victory in the third Test at The Oval, fell for five on Monday when caught behind off Stuart Broad.

Heino Kuhn, struggling to cement his Test place, repeatedly played and missed before, on 11, edging James Anderson, again bowling from the newly-named James Anderson End, to Cook.

Temba Bavuma again battled hard until, from the last ball before lunch, he was given out caught behind on review off Toby Roland-Jones. Amla completed a 100-ball fifty with his ninth four, a pull off Ben Stokes. He then twice forced Stokes off the back foot for two stylish offside fours before driving Ali for six.

But with South Africa 163 for three, Amla missed an intended whip shot off Ali and was lbw, although England, for the second time yesterday, had to first review umpire Kumar Dharmasena's original not out decision.

No replays were required when Quinton de Kock (one) edged a drive off Ali to Alastair Cook in the slips. And 173 for five became 173 for six when Theunis de Bruyn fell for a duck, nicking Ali to slip fielder Stokes.

The end came quickly for South Africa, 182 for six at tea. Du Plessis, who played at Old Trafford for Lancashire, had added just one to his tea score when he was caught behind off Anderson, England's all-time leading Test wicket-taker. Anderson, who finished with three for 16, then had Kagiso Rabada caught in the covers. Ali, appropriately, finished the match with Morkel holing out for a duck before Olivier, also out for nought, was taken by Stokes at slip. —AFP

SCOREBOARD

MANCHESTER: Scoreboard yesterday after England beat South Africa by 177 runs in the fourth and final test at Old Trafford to take the series 3-1.

England 1st Innings: 362 all out.
South Africa 1st Innings: 226 all out.
England 2nd Innings: 243 all out.

South Africa 2nd Innings (Target: 380)

Heino Kuhn c Cook b Anderson	11
Dean Elgar c Bairstow b Broad	5
Hashim Amla lbw b Ali	83
Temba Bavuma c Bairstow b Roland-Jones	12
Faf du Plessis c Bairstow b Anderson	61
Quinton de Kock c Cook b Ali	1
Theunis de Bruyn c Stokes b Ali	0
Keshav Maharaj not out	21
Kagiso Rabada c Westley b Anderson	1
Morne Morkel c Root b Ali	0
Duanne Olivier c Stokes b Ali	0
Extras: (4b, 3lb)	7
Total: (all out)	202

Overs: 62.5

Fall of wickets: 1-10, 2-18, 3-40, 4-163, 5-173, 6-173, 7-183, 8-195, 9-202, 10-202.

Bowling: James Anderson 14-7-16-3, Stuart Broad 12-5-24-1, Toby Roland-Jones 9-1-52-1, Moeen Ali 19.5-1-69-5, Ben Stokes 6-1-26-0, Joe Root 2-0-8-0.

Result: England won by 177 runs.

STANFORD: Madison Keys, right, of the United States, holds the winner's plate next to Coco Vandeweghe, left, of the United States, with the runner-up plate, after the final in the Bank of the West Classic tennis tournament in Stanford, Calif. — AP

Madison Keys outslugs CoCo to win at Stanford

STANFORD: Madison Keys and CoCo Vandeweghe had never played on opposite sides of the net, just together on Fed Cup for the US, bonding and becoming friends during that extended stay in Australia in April last year.

They sure put on an entertaining show of tennis when they finally faced off for the first time Sunday. Third-seeded Keys outslugged No. 6 Vandeweghe 7-6 (4), 6-4 to win the Bank of the West Classic in a thrilling display of power and serving by the two young American stars in their first career matchup. Afterward, they hugged and Keys playfully sat on her opponent's lap. Keys couldn't quite believe it took them this long to meet up in a match that mattered. She won her third career singles title and first on hardcourt playing under cloudless skies at Stanford. The champ finally got her chance by rallying back to deuce in the ninth game of the second set, when Vandeweghe surrendered her first service game after she saved two break points moments earlier. Vandeweghe hadn't dropped a set all tournament until the final.

"It feels amazing to have a title at home and on hardcourt," Keys said. "It means a lot. It's my first title in the States against a friend." After smacking a clean crosscourt forehand winner on match point, Keys raised her hands in the air in triumph then gave Vandeweghe a hug at the net before waving to the crowd. Keys stayed after the trophy ceremony to sign autographs. Keys, who missed the first two months of the season following surgery on her left wrist, eliminated Wimbledon champion and top-seeded Garbine Muguruza 6-3, 6-2 in just 57 minutes Saturday night to snap Muguruza's nine-match winning streak and advance to her first final this year.

A day later, Keys needed nearly that amount of time to win the first-set tiebreaker: The opening set lasted 53 minutes then the second just 35. Keys brilliantly returned serve and routinely pumped in her own serves from 114-118 mph to keep Vandeweghe on the defensive.

There were times during her wrist rehab she wondered if her tennis would ever return to top form. These two generate so much power from their tall frames. Vandeweghe is 6 foot 1 and Keys stands 5 foot 10. "It was a high quality match from both players," Vandeweghe said. "It was definitely a really tight two-set match. It was fun to play. It was fun to kind of play a friend and have an all-American final. —AP

Sizzling Zverev takes fourth title of the year

WASHINGTON: Alexander Zverev issued a warning to top ATP rivals Sunday after winning the Citi Open for his fourth title of the year-he's not the next generation, he's the now generation. The 20-year-old German defeated South Africa's Kevin Anderson 6-4, 6-4 to capture the $355,460 (302,000 euros) top prize at the US Open tuneup event on the Washington hardcourts. World number eight Zverev dropped only nine points on his serve and never faced a break point in becoming the youngest player to win four ATP titles in a year, or take the Washington crown, since Argentina's Juan Martin Del Potro did it at 19 in 2008.

"I improved a lot in the last few months to get where I can win tournaments," Zverev said. "The longer the tournament goes for me the better I'm able to play. Hopefully this can continue to be like that." Zverev won his first title last September in St. Petersburg and added trophies this year at Montpellier, Munich and Rome, where he downed Novak Djokovic in the final. He also ousted number four Stan Wawrinka at Miami and pushed Rafael Nadal to five sets in the third round of the Australian Open.

"I'm 'Next Gen' but the rankings say it for themselves," Zverev said. "I think I showed I can play with the big guys this year. "I think I showed I'm not an 'in the future' kind of guy. I'm right now."

Only Wimbledon and Australian Open champion Roger Federer with five titles has won more ATP crowns this year than Zverev, and that's only because the Swiss star handed the German his lone finals loss of 2017 at Halle in June. "A lot of people are looking at him as the face of tennis and the next Grand Slam champion," Anderson said of Zverev. "He seems to deal with it all pretty well. It will be interesting to see how the next little while progresses.

"I wouldn't be surprised if he wins a few Grand Slams. He definitely seems to be on a path in that direction." Zverev, who will remain a career-best eighth in Monday's rankings, made a Slam-best fourth-round Wimbledon run, losing in five sets to Milos Raonic.

MAKAROVA WINS WOMEN'S TITLE

"Winning those types of matches is the next level I need to reach," Zverev said. "To get far in those events is my next goal." Zverev thanked new co-coach Juan Carlos Ferrero, the former world number one from Spain who worked with him at an event for the first time this week.

"What a way to start together and hopefully we have many more years to come and many more titles together," Zverev said. "It's amazing what we've already accomplished."

Russia's 58th-ranked Ekaterina Makarova prevented a German title sweep by rallying past 40th-ranked Julia Goerges 3-6, 7-6 (7/2), 6-0 for her third career WTA crown. "I was dreaming to win this tournament and I'm so happy," Makarova said.

Makarova hadn't won a title since 2014 in Pattaya City. Her first WTA trophy came at Eastbourne in 2010. —AFP

WASHINGTON: Alexander Zverev, of Germany, kisses the trophy after he defeated Kevin Anderson, of South Africa, to win the Citi Open tennis tournament, Sunday, in Washington. — AP

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BUSINESS

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Real estate prices stabilize, but volatility remains Page 18

Barclays releases Q3 2017 'Compass' research report Page 19

Dow hits record high again; Nasdaq higher Page 20

KFH-Takaful signs insurance agreement with Porsche Club 21

NEW YORK: Select Energy Services Chairman & CEO John Schmitz, foreground right, and company executives and guests celebrate their IPO as they ring the New York Stock Exchange opening bell yesterday. —AP

Renault signs 660m euro deal with Iran

Long-awaited JV plans to build up to 300,000 cars per year

TEHRAN: French automaker Renault signed yesterday a long-awaited joint venture deal with Iran worth 660 million euros ($779 million) to build up to 300,000 cars per year. The new deal puts Renault in partnership with Iran's state Industrial Development and Renovation Organization (IDRO) and private firm Parto Negin Naseh. Renault will hold a 60-percent stake with IDRO and Parto Negin Naseh 20 percent each.

"The first phase of this accord worth 660 million euros provides for the annual manufacturing of 150,000 cars," IDRO head Mansour Moazami said at a signing ceremony in Tehran.

He said the first cars will roll off the assembly line in around 18 months. The new venture will produce Renault's Duster and Symbol models at a refurbished factory in Saveh, around 120 kilometres (74 miles) southwest of Tehran. A second, three-year phase will start in 2019 with production ramping up to 300,000 cars per year.

Under the deal, 30 percent of the cars and parts made by the venture will be exported. "We are happy to sign one of Renault's most historical contracts here," said Thierry Bollore, number two of the French carmaker, at the signing.

"Within Renault, Iran is known for its great industrial potential, its automotive industry infrastructure, strong human resources and unique geopolitical position," he added.

Unlike its chief competitor PSA, which makes Peugeots and Citroens, Renault never fully quit Iran during the sanctions period and already makes some 200,000 cars a year in the country.

But it had to put a brake on its growth plans until Iran concluded a nuclear deal with world powers that came into force in January 2016, easing international sanctions.

"Renault has proved its commitment with a nonstop presence in Iran since the beginning of its operation in 2004, and this signing confirms our strong intent and commitment for long-term operations as a strategic partner of Iran's automotive industry," said Bollore.

"This is a unique agreement in terms of investment, of technology transfer... of the development of Iranian talent, and in the creation of a modern engineering and production centre," he added. Negotiations were painstaking, with Renault reportedly reluctant to meet Iranian requirements to source 40 percent of their parts from local manufacturers, which have struggled to keep up with international standards.

PSA, which quit the country when international sanctions hit in 2012, has been quick to rebuild its presence in Iran, which was the company's main engine of growth last year.

It signed a 400-million-euro deal in June 2016 to build 200,000 Peugeots a year with Iran Khodro, and another with Iran's SAIPA to build a similar number of Citroens. Overall production in Iran is expected to reach two million cars a year by 2020, up from 1.2 million in 2016.

French firms have been at the forefront of rebuilding trade ties with Iran since the nuclear deal, with energy giant Total signing a billion-dollar gas deal last month despite mounting pressure from Washington to isolate the country. —AFP

TEHRAN: (L to R) Thierry Bollore, deputy director of Competitiveness at Renault, Mansour Moazami, Chairman of the Board of Directors of IDRO Group, and Kourosh Morshed Solouk, deputy director of the Iranian Automobile Importers Association, attend a signing of a deal ceremony in Tehran yesterday, in the presence of Iranian Minister of Industry Mohammad Reza Nematzadeh (second left, background). —AFP

Cash crisis pushes Libyans to virtual payments systems

BENGHAZI: When a cash crisis struck the war-torn North African country of Libya, many people were forced to queue for days to withdraw their savings. But electronic payments systems set up to tackle the dearth of cash have struggled to gain credibility amid accusations of abuse.

Said Fayez Fadlallah, 35, uses a mobile phone app to pay for a trolley-full of groceries at a large supermarket in second city Benghazi. "Now I don't have to spend hours or even days queuing at the bank to withdraw cash," he said. "They really solved a problem for us."

Years of violence and political chaos since a 2011 NATO-backed uprising that toppled and killed longtime dictator Muammar Gaddafi have left Libya's state institutions in crisis-including the central bank. In 2014 it split into two, with the different branches overseen by rival governments in the west and east. The resulting cash crisis, fuelled by spiraling inflation, caused huge queues to form at the banks and left many people unable to access their salaries.

In response, the banks have launched electronic payment systems. In Benghazi, the Bank of Commerce & Development's "Edfali" (Arabic for "pay me") and Wahda Bank's "MobiCash" allow users to buy goods, pay restaurant bills and access pharmacies and hospitals.

But not everyone is happy. At the exit of the same Benghazi supermarket, his arms full of produce, Ayman Al-Obeidi, 46, said the new payment systems were not working. "We were told... that prices would remain unchanged" compared with cash prices, he said. "But we saw a 40 percent increase on payments with Edfali."

Bank rush

Many Libyans have not had free access to their bank accounts since 2014. Braving cold in winter and blistering heat in the summer, they rushed to the banks on hearing rumors of cash deliveries and queued for hours without any guarantee they would be able to access their own money.

The crisis has destroyed public confidence in the financial sector. "People don't trust the banks anymore," one bank employee told AFP, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"They want to be sure they can get enough cash in case anything happens and the banks close, or if they can't leave their houses." Employees of Libya's vast public service still have their salaries paid directly into their accounts. Many have turned to electronic payment systems to access their money. Such services allow buyers to credit the seller's account. They then receive an SMS message confirming that the transaction has been completed. Wahda Bank's spokesman Al-Motassem Al-Fitouri said transactions via MobiCash are "very secure".

"It is not even necessary to have a smartphone to make payments, nor does the merchant have to have a point-of-sale device," he said. The banks are aware that the services are open to abuse, however. On its website, the BCD encourages customers to report price hikes on payments via "Edfali". And many businesses that were enthusiastic at first have since dropped the service. Salah Al-Agouri, a businessman whose clients pay him using Edfali, is critical. "The bank did not respect its commitments," he said. "It assured us that we would be able to withdraw cash to the value of 25 percent of sales via this service, but that wasn't the case." —AFP

UAE oil firm in talks over offshore oil stakes

DUBAI: The United Arab Emirates' main state oil company says it plans to divvy up its offshore oil operations and is in "advanced discussions" with multiple companies interested in stakes.

The Abu Dhabi National Oil Company said yesterday that more than a dozen companies are involved in the talks, and that they include both existing partners and new firms. It did not name them.

International shareholders with existing stakes in offshore fields include BP, Total and Exxon Mobil.

ADNOC plans to split its offshore oil concessions into two or more separate operations and will retain a 60 percent stake in the fields. ADNOC last month announced plans to create joint ventures with international investors and may float some shares in an effort to raise billions of dollars. —AP

Table 1: Real estate sales

	Monthly average		2017			Jun 2017	
	2015	2016	Apr	May	Jun	% m/m	% y/y
Sales (KD mn)	**253.5**	**195**	**136.8**	**288.7**	**163.6**	**-43.3**	**-14.6**
Residential property	113.4	79	81.7	138.2	102.0	-26.2	15.7
Investment property	102.2	68	42.4	87.7	50.8	-42.1	-30.8
Commercial property	37.9	48	12.7	62.8	10.9	-82.7	-63.8
Number of transactions	**452**	**354**	**351**	**592**	**386**	**-34.8**	**4.3**
Residential property	323	237	288	406	308	-24.1	15.8
Investment property	120	108	60	180	74	-58.9	-25.3
Commercial property	8	8	3	6	4	-33.3	-20.0
Transaction size (KD '000)	**566**	**547**	**389.7**	**487.6**	**423.9**	**-13.1**	**-18.1**
Residential property	352	332	283.6	340.3	331.2	-2.7	-0.1
Investment property	882	646	706.3	487.0	686.1	40.9	-7.4
Commercial property	5,185	5,204	4,240	10,472	2,713	-74.1	-54.8

Source: Ministry of Justice

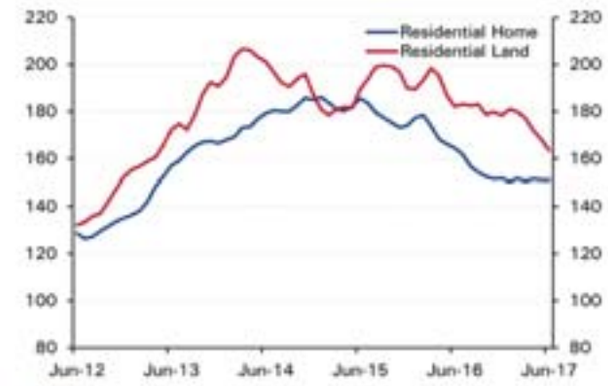
Chart 1: Real estate sales

(KD mn)

Source: Ministry of Justice

Chart 3: Residential real estate price indices

(index, 3-month moving average, 2010=100)



Source: Ministry of Justice, NBK estimates

Real estate prices stabilize, but volatility remains

NBK ECONOMIC REPORT

KUWAIT: Increased volatility in real estate activity dominated the first half of 2017 amid steadying prices. Despite some volatility, market activity improved significantly during the first half of the year compared to 2H16, though it remained down 10 percent compared to a year before. Improved activity was particularly visible in the residential sector. This also helped keep real estate prices mostly steady during 1H17.

Activity in June experienced the usual slowdown from the start of summer and the holy month of Ramadan. June sales eased to KD 163.6 million, down 14.6 percent year-on-year (y/y). The annual decline was mostly due to weakness in the investment and commercial sectors; however, residential sector activity mitigated further weakness with healthy activity despite the seasonal factors. Real estate price indices continue to hover around their six month averages, except for the residential land price index that has retreated somewhat.

The residential sector maintained a solid performance that supported overall activity in June, with revived interest in residential plots. Growing at 15.7 percent y/y, residential sales amounted to KD 102 million in total on 308 transactions. 161 plot sales were recorded during the month, an 85 percent increase from the previous year; most activity was in Abu Ftaira and Al-Salam areas. During 1H17, 757 residential plots were sold compared to 629 plots for the same period last year.

Residential home prices remain steady as residential land prices ease slightly. The NBK residential home price index stood at 151.8 in June, flat for the month once again; the contraction from a year ago was the slowest in thirteen months at 7.7 percent y/y. The NBK residential land index eased to 162.9 in June from 168.0 in May, dragged down by a bulk sale of 49 plots at a relatively lower market price; the pace of decline from a year ago remained steady at 10-12 percent y/y, a pace that was sustained during the last three months.

Investment sector

The investment sector continues to underperform despite the short-lived surge in activity in May. Sector sales totaled KD 50.8 million, down 30.8 percent y/y. The number of transactions was also down by 25 percent y/y to 74. Apartment sales continue to carry the investment sector during the current environment. Single apartments bought for investment represented 61 percent of total transactions.

The NBK investment building price index remained steady in June. The index came in at 190.1 down only 5.6 percent y/y, an improvement from the double-digit decline rates recorded the previous year. Housing inflation and investment prices align after the recent inflation revision to the CPI. The rise in vacant apartments and the slowdown in market activity have exercised downward pressure on rents that was not visible in the inflation data until recently. The revision of the consumer price index, which showed housing rents down 2.3 percent y/y for June were more in line with real estate prices and activity.

The commercial sector posted the lowest activity since October 2016 with total sales amounting to just KD 10.9 million. Four transactions were recorded in June, the largest being a commercial plot in Qibla for KD 4.95 million.

Another milestone for stocks: Most boring market in decades

WALL STREET OVERVIEW

NEW YORK: This year's run to a record for the stock market has been one of the least eventful in decades. Just don't get too comfortable. Only twice this year have investors had to deal with a 1 percent drop for the Standard & Poor's 500 index in a day. That's far fewer than typical. The last time stocks sailed through such an uneventful first seven months was when a group of burglars was arrested for breaking into the Watergate complex in 1972. Broaden the scope to include when the S&P 500 fell or rose by 1 percent in a day, and this could be the least volatile year for stocks since 1964, if the current pace holds.

But as central banks start to wean markets off the stimulus they've injected into the global economy, many money managers say they're preparing for a bumpier ride ahead. For now, markets have been so calm that the biggest loss for the S&P 500 last week was just 0.2 percent. Compare that to the whiplash investors felt during the summer of 2011, when the S&P 500 swung by more than 4 percent each day during one four-day stretch. Investors fortunate enough to be in the market have enjoyed all the upside of owning stocks with almost none of the traditional downside. Stocks are supposed to be volatile, and investors have long accepted that having to stomach big swings in price is one of the costs of owning them. But the largest stock fund by assets, Vanguard's Total Stock Market Index fund, has already returned 11 percent in 2017 with only a few big down days.

Surprising

"At the surface, it is surprising" how calm stocks have been, said Greg Davis, Vanguard's chief investment officer. "But it's not surprising if you think about a world where central banks have been unbelievably accommodative. I think investors still think central banks will step in if there's any stress in the financial markets."

The Federal Reserve and other central banks around the world have slashed interest rates and thrown trillions of dollars of stimulus at the global economy since the 2008 financial crisis. Not only that, profits for S&P 500 companies started growing again late last year, inflation remains low and economies around the world finally seem to be in a synchronized move higher. All that has helped convince investors to step in as buyers whenever stocks seem vulnerable to a slide, which keeps markets smooth. But the Fed is now slowly moving in the opposite direction: It has raised short-term rates modestly three times in the last year. The central bank also expects to begin paring its vast portfolio of bond investments "relatively soon." Investors on both sides of the Atlantic, meanwhile, are handicapping how long it will be before the European Central Bank pulls back on its bond-buying program.

NEW YORK: Trader Ronald Franco works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange yesterday. US stocks were little changed in early trading as technology companies rose and energy companies slipped with the price of oil. —AP

That could force a return to more typical levels of volatility. Over the last half century, the S&P 500 has had a median 26 days where it fell by at least 1 percent during a year. The worry is that the stock market may not only get back to that level but overshoot it. Stocks are pricier, which raises the risk: One popular measure that compares stock prices to corporate earnings over the prior 10 years says the S&P 500 is at its most expensive level since the dot-com bubble in 2001.

If central banks aren't the trigger to reawaken market volatility, analysts say it could be anything that comes as a big surprise to investors, such as a natural disaster, international conflict or unexpected drop in corporate profits.

In a recent survey of investment managers at about 100 firms by Northern Trust Asset Management, 63 percent called the market's lack of volatility a warning sign that may lead to a sell-off for stocks. That's even though half the respondents expect corporate profit growth to increase, and most forecast stable economic growth, conditions that are typically favorable for the stock market.

"Volatility is so low, and so much hope is baked into current prices, that it has the potential to disappoint," said Rob McIver, portfolio manager at Jensen Investment Management. Of course, stocks have remained calm this year even in the face of some typically unnerving events. Washington has been unable so far to meet the big expectations investors had at the start of the year for pro-business reforms. North Korea had its first successful test of an intercontinental ballistic missile.

The price of oil is still bouncing up and down. Strategists at BlackRock, the world's largest asset manager, say they think the calm market is partly a result of how unusually stable growth has been for the economy and that the market can remain unruffled as long as the economy holds up. —AP

Strong euro worries Europe's exporters, but little risk seen

PARIS: Some European exporters are beginning to worry about the strengthening euro which has rebounded from near parity with the dollar after Donald Trump's election, though analysts see little immediate risk to growth.

Europe's single currency surged on Wednesday to $1.1910, its highest level since early January 2015, before retreating to $1.1770 late Friday. For European businesses heavily reliant on exports, especially in Italy and France, the strong euro could hurt the bottom line.

"There's a general nervousness that this strong euro is beginning to impact European corporate profits-we are starting to see it in this quarter's results," William Hamlyn, investment analyst at Manulife Asset Management, told AFP.

Still many analysts say economic fundamentals are in favor of the euro, compared to the weak dollar and the feeble pound which has been hammered ever since Britain voted last year to exit the European Union. And the impact of a strong euro is different depending on the country. Germany, Europe's biggest economy, has nothing to fear for the moment, said Berenberg Bank economist Holger Schmieding, noting the euro is still far from its long term equilibrium rate of $1.25.

Only about a quarter of German exports are pegged to the dollar, said Ilja Nothnagel, International expert at the German chambers of commerce DIHK.

Italy would be the country "most affected by the increase in value of the euro," said Ludovic Subran, chief economist at trade credit-insurer Euler Hermes. "If the dollar/euro rate should remain stable at this level, we will be at a disadvantage," admitted Licia Mattioli, vice-president for international affairs at the Italian employers' organization Confindustria.

"The effect would be crosswise on our exports, which have grown the past few years towards America. We are exporters to the United States in a number of sectors: fashion, accessories, jewels, food , automobiles, machinery...," she said.

However, Lucia Tajoli, professor of economic policy at Polytechnic in Milan, notes the euro is not "super strong" and thinks Italian exports due their growth in recent years can take some pressure. "They could suffer a little but there shouldn't be extremely heavy impacts," she told AFP.

For France, the rise of the euro is going to be "felt strongly in some sectors such as aeronautics," said Subran, adding that big enterprises involved in major exports have shown in the past they know how to adapt to a rising euro. For the moment, the strong euro is not bothering Spain as two thirds of its exports are to EU countries. However, growth in exports outside the bloc-which has increased by five percent during the first five months of this year compared with the same period in 2016 — could ultimately be affected.

Growth risk?

The euro's rebound comes with the economic recovery of the eurozone on track. "The eurozone is today seen by many as a zone of stability," Philippe Waechter, an economist at Natixis, told AFP. The economy in the 19-country single currency area grew by 0.6 percent in the second quarter, compared with 0.5 percent in the first three months of the year, the Eurostat statistics agency said this week. Compared with the same quarter in 2016, economic output in the eurozone rose by 2.1 percent, it added.

"All in all, the eurozone economy has rounded out the first half of the year in a very healthy state and seems to be set up nicely for continued firm growth for the rest of 2017," said analyst Bert Colijn of ING. Eurozone growth as a whole rose twice as fast as in Britain, where gross domestic product was up 0.3 percent in the last quarter.

Then on Thursday the Bank of England cut its UK growth forecasts with governor Mark Carney warning that high inflation triggered by a Brexit-fuelled slump in the pound had hurt consumer spending. So for now the strong euro is expected to have little impact on overall eurozone growth, said Subran, who estimated a loss of 0.1 percentage point this year. However if the single currency continues to strengthen the impact on growth could reach between 0.3-0.4 percent next year. —AFP

EXCHANGE RATES

Al-Muzaini Exchange Co.

ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.735
Indian Rupees	4.761
Pakistani Rupees	2.870
Srilankan Rupees	1.971
Nepali Rupees	2.981
Singapore Dollar	223.600
Hongkong Dollar	38.730
Bangladesh Taka	3.737
Philippine Peso	6.030
Thai Baht	9.127
GCC COUNTRIES	
Saudi Riyal	80.787
Qatari Riyal	83.207
Omani Riyal	786.772
Bahraini Dinar	804.440
UAE Dirham	82.482
ARAB COUNTRIES	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	21.200
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	16.962
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.216
Tunisian Dinar	127.100
Jordanian Dinar	427.490
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.018
Syrian Lira	2.159
Morocco Dirham	32.484
EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES	
US Dollar Transfer	302.750
Euro	359.360
Sterling Pound	396.910
Canadian dollar	240.660
Turkish lira	86.250
Swiss Franc	313.410
Australian Dollar	241.900
US Dollar Buying	301.550
GOLD	
20 Gram	249.070
10 Gram	127.450
5 Gram	64.570

Dollarco Exchange Co. Ltd

Rate for Transfr	Selling Rate
US Dollar	302.400
Canadian Dollar	239.905
Sterling Pound	396.345
Euro	358.225
Swiss Frank	295.545
Bahrain Dinar	802.065
UAE Dirhams	82.725
Qatari Riyals	83.945
Saudi Riyals	81.535
Jordanian Dinar	426.430
Egyptian Pound	17.020
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.972
Indian Rupees	4.752
Pakistani Rupees	2.869
Bangladesh Taka	3.745
Philippines Pesso	6.018
Cyprus pound	166.890
Japanese Yen	3.730
Syrian Pound	1.590
Nepalese Rupees	2.988
Malaysian Ringgit	71.565
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	45.440
Thai Bhat	10.080
Turkish Lira	86.055

Bahrain Exchange Company WLL

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.388326	0.398326
Czech Korune	0.005637	0.017637
Danish Krone	0.043890	0.048890
Euro	0. 351298	0.360298
Norwegian Krone	0.034074	0.039274
Romanian Leu	0.078010	0.078010
Slovakia	0.009023	0.019023
Swedish Krona	0.033136	0.038136
Swiss Franc	0.304751	0.315751
Turkish Lira	0.080871	0.091171
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.231767	0.243767
New Zealand Dollar	0.217457	0.226957
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.233954	0.242954
Georgina Lari	0.134959	0.124959
US Dollars	0.298850	0.303070
US Dollars Mint	0.299150	0.303070
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003336	0.003920
Chinese Yuan	0.043515	0.047015
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036613	0.039363
Indian Rupee	0.004236	0.004924
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002648	0.002828
Kenyan Shilling	0.002906	0.002906
Korean Won	0.000258	0.000273
Malaysian Ringgit	0.067407	0.073407
Nepalese Rupee	0.002976	0.003146
Pakistan Rupee	0.002655	0.002945
Philippine Peso	0.005917	0.006217
Sierra Leone	0.000037	0.000043
Singapore Dollar	0.216924	0.226924
South African Rand	0.016541	0.025041
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001598	0.002178
Taiwan	0.009902	0.010082
Thai Baht	0.008760	0.009310
Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.795657	0.804557
Egyptian Pound	0.015566	0.021474
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000190	0.000250
Jordanian Dinar	0.422401	0.431401
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000151	0.000251
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020236	0.044236
Nigerian Naira	0.000227	0.000862
Omani Riyal	0.779944	0.785624
Qatar Riyal	0.078868	0.083808
Saudi Riyal	0.079647	0.080947
Syrian Pound	0.001283	0.001503
Tunisian Dinar	0.122717	0.130717
Turkish Lira	0.080871	0.091171
UAE Dirhams	0.081002	0.082702
Yemeni Riyal	0.000984	0.001064

Greek GDP stats gaps prompt suspension of flash data

ATHENS: Greece's statistics service ELSTAT has suspended until further notice the release of flash quarterly estimates on the country's gross domestic product because of divergences with provisional estimates, an official at the statistics service said yesterday.

The move means that flash data will not be issued on Aug. 14. Nationwide quarterly GDP data will be released on Sept. 1, taking into account more information than the early indicator of the flash estimate. That quarterly figure, known as provisional data, can also be subject to revisions over time. The quality of Greek statistical data is under constant scrutiny by Brussels since the country plunged into crisis in 2010, requiring to date three international bailouts to stave off bankruptcy.

Discrepancies in the way the budget deficit was calculated before 2010 - which angry eurozone partners say concealed the extent of the deficit - helped trigger the financial crisis that engulfed Greece and the eurozone. A senior ELSTAT official told Reuters the suspension of the flash data was necessary because flash data was issued on the basis of incomplete information, which subsequently needed revisions when more data came in.

"We will probably not publish flash estimates for the next coming quarters after recent divergences," the ELSTAT official said. There have been considerable differences in the past two quarters between flash data, issued 45 days after the lapse of the reference period, and provisional data that follows and is released within a 60 day period.

On June 2, ELSTAT upwardly revised its first-quarter GDP estimate to an expansion of 0.4 percent quarter-on-quarter on a provisional basis; flash data released 15 days earlier had estimated the economy had contracted by 0.1 percent.

Similarly in March, ELSTAT said Greece's economy shrank 1.2 percent in the last quarter of 2016, a considerable revision from a 0.4 percent crimp it gave a fortnight earlier.

"We don't have all the necessary data for the flash estimates on time. We just have data only for two months of the quarter on employment and not the final data for the current account balance," the official said. "We want to explore the availability of the necessary data sources and improve the consistency of the flash estimates."

Many statistics services in the eurozone announce their flash estimates on GDP 45 days after the end of the previous quarter and provisional estimates 60 days later.

Ireland, Luxembourg and Sweden do not issue flash data. The release of flash estimates is not mandatory under European legislation. The official said that Eurostat has been informed on the matter.—Reuters

DHAKA: A Bangladeshi woman walks through a vegetable market at Karwan Bazar in Dhaka on Sunday. Karwan Bazar is one of the largest wholesale marketplaces in the Bangladeshi capital. —AFP

Equities in developed, emerging markets offer growth potential

Barclays releases its Q3 2017 'Compass' research report

KUWAIT: Barclays' Private Bank released its Q3 2017 "Compass" Report, which examines major asset classes globally. The latest research report revealed that equities in Developed and Emerging Markets continue to offer best growth potential for investors seeking to take advantage of tactical investment opportunities across the globe.

The Q3 tactical allocation highlighted in Barclays' latest edition of the Compass Research Report maintained an overweight position in Developed Markets Equities especially with leading indicators, related to this asset class, currently painting a positive picture for the future. Barclays' strategists believe that both US and European stock markets (excluding the UK) are currently seen to offer superior growth potential for investors.

The report also maintained its overweight allocation to Emerging Markets Equities as the business cycle continues to firm up; a view which is supported by the stabilization of business confidence surveys and trade data. Korea, Taiwan and China (offshore) maintain their positions as markets of choice. As a result, Barclays' Investment Committee lowered its allocation to Cash and Short-Maturity Bonds from neutral to underweight.

Francesco Grosoli

Similarly, High Yield & Emerging Markets Bonds allocation also remained overweight. Although relatively expensive, Barclays' strategists continue to view High Yield Bonds as attractive in the context of a fixed income complex within a moderate risk portfolio. Commenting on the report, Francesco Grosoli, Barclays' Head of Private Bank for Europe, the Middle East and Africa (EMEA), said: "While the outlook for the global economy continues to improve, as indicated by corporate earnings and trade statistics, investors are best served by continuing to diversify their portfolios across both asset classes and geographies."

He added: "Emerging Markets Equities in general continue to show robust growth potential; however, it's worth highlighting the notable change in EM equity indices which are witnessing a shift from the energy and materials sectors to the information technology sector."

'Compass' also assigned an underweight allocation to both Developed Government Bonds and Investment Grade Bonds, given that nominal yields offered by large chunks of the government bond universe as well as investment grade corporate bonds are still negligible.

Additionally, the report maintained its neutral view on Commodities, indicating that investors are more likely to benefit from tilting their investments towards oil and shying away from gold, as it continues to be susceptible to further US interest rate hikes. The latest instalment of the report has also maintained its neutral allocation to both Real Estate and Alternative Trading Strategies.

China July FX reserves hit 9-mth high on weak dollar

BEIJING: China's foreign exchange reserves rose twice as much as expected in July to a nine-month high as tighter regulations and a weaker dollar keep capital outflows in check.

A dramatic reduction in capital outflows - which are seen as one of China's biggest risks - has helped boost confidence in its economy this year as policymakers preach stability ahead of a key political leadership reshuffle in coming months. China's forex reserves, the world's largest, rose $24 billion in July to $3.081 trillion, compared with an increase of $3.2 billion in June, central bank data showed yesterday. It was the first time that China's reserves had climbed for six months in a row since June 2014, and lifted them to the highest level since last October.

The country's foreign exchange regulator said weakness in the dollar helped push up the value of non-dollar currencies in its holdings. The euro, in particular, gained more than 3 percent against the greenback last month.

Excluding those valuation effects, China's reserves would have fallen by $5.2 billion in July, China Merchants Securities economists estimated in a research note following the data.

China burned through nearly $320 billion of reserves last year, but the yuan still fell about 6.5 percent against the surging dollar, its biggest annual drop since 1994. ING economist Iris Pang estimated outflows eased to about $10 billion in July. Such a modest level should reduce any pressures on the yuan for the rest of the year, she said, while adding she does not expect authorities to relax restrictions on capital outflows anytime soon.

China's forex pile fell below the closely watched $3 trillion level in January for the first time in nearly six years, raising market fears that Beijing may devalue its currency to relieve the pressure.

But the yuan has rebounded more than 3 percent so far this year, thanks largely to a reversal in the dollar, tougher policing of outflows and fresh steps by the central bank to flush out speculators who were betting the currency would continue to fall. The yuan strengthened around 0.8 percent against the dollar in July, its third straight month of gains.

The strong rebound "has changed market expectations to yuan appreciation (from depreciation)," said ING's Pang. In the first half of the year, Chinese commercial banks sold a net $93.8 billion of foreign exchange, down 46 percent from the same period last year.

"The balance in the foreign exchange market in the first half of the year was the best in three years," the State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE) said last month, adding that it expected cross-border flows to remain stable due to the country's strong economic performance and more benign conditions globally.

Fresh measures

In addition to clamping down on outflows since late last year via administrative measures, Beijing has more recently taken aim at some overseas investments by Chinese firms as it looks to keep the yuan on a more even keel. China's non-financial outbound direct investment (ODI) fell by nearly half in the first half of 2017 as the tighter capital restrictions began to bite.

Reuters reported in July that China's regulators have told banks to stop providing funding for several of Dalian Wanda Group's overseas acquisitions as Beijing looks to curb the conglomerate's offshore buying spree. Authorities will "severely crack down on underground banks and other foreign exchange violations to prevent and resolve risks from cross-border capital flows", the forex regulator said in an internal meeting last month.

The SAFE reiterated that it will back legitimate overseas investments by domestic firms and will continue to monitor overseas investments in property, hotel, entertainment, sports and movie industries. Combined, the more stringent regulatory measures, a weaker dollar and pressure on acquisition hungry domestic firms have helped pull the yuan away from the 7 to the dollar mark which is believed to be closely watched by China's top policymakers.

Still, in 12 months' time the yuan is expected to have erased most of the gains made this year, providing the US Federal Reserve sticks to a gradual policy tightening path, boosting the dollar, a Reuters poll showed last week. From current levels around 6.72, the yuan is forecast to weaken to 6.85 in six months and 6.90 in a year, according to the poll of over 60 foreign exchange analysts taken July 27-Aug 2. The value of China's gold reserves rose to $75.084 billion at end-July, from $73.585 billion at end-June. — Reuters

MANILA: A general view shows the slum area (foreground) and Makati city (background) in Manila yesterday. —AFP

German industrial output drops unexpectedly in June

FRANKFURT AM MAIN: German industrial production declined in June, disappointing analysts' expectations, official data showed yesterday.

Production fell by 1.1 percent month-on-month in June, after a 1.2-percent rise in May, according to figures adjusted for price, seasonal and calendar effects from federal statistics authority Destatis.

The June figure fell short of the 0.25 percent growth predicted by analysts surveyed by Factset.

Industrial production is closely watched as an indicator of the health of an economy, and has been on the rise in Germany in recent months along with indicators of business, investor and consumer confidence. Looking at the different industrial sectors, capital goods makers' output fell 1.9 percent, while producer goods production was down 1.2 percent and consumer goods production declined by 0.7 percent. Construction output fell 1.0 percent, while the energy sector was the only ones to report increased production, 1.4 percent higher than in May.

Despite the fall in June, "the business situation in industry continued to revive in the second quarter," the economy ministry in Berlin said in a statement, noting that production only sank in June after five consecutive months of increases.

"Industrial orders and indicators for the business climate suggest that the upward trend in industrial production will continue," the ministry added. —AFP

Dip in consumption, commodity prices hit Indonesia Q2 growth

JAKARTA: Indonesia's economy grew a slower-than-expected 5.01 percent in the second quarter as a dip in household consumption and a slowdown in key commodity prices hit the resource-rich country, data released yesterday showed. The year-on-year expansion was unchanged from the first quarter but below the government target of 5.2 percent growth for 2017.

"We have to admit that the 5.01 percent growth is below our expectation, but I'd say it's still quite good considering the global economic conditions and the decreasing commodity prices," Suhariyanto, the head of Indonesia's Central Statistics Bureau, said. President Joko Widodo came to power in 2014 on a pledge to boost economic expansion to seven percent but his government has struggled to lift growth rates in Southeast Asia's largest economy, which is rich in resources but has suffered from a slump in commodity prices.

Household consumption, which accounts for more than half of Indonesian GDP, was the main driver of growth, expanding 4.95 percent year-on-year but down from the 5.07 percent growth seen in the second quarter last year. Growth in trade dipped, due to a slowdown in domestic goods production and the supply of imported goods, Suhariyanto said.

Capital Economics described the result as another disappointing quarter for Indonesia. "Looking ahead, we see little prospects of a sustained recovery," Gareth Leather, senior Asia economist at the consultancy, said. Authorities have been scrambling to boost growth, with the central bank slashing interest rates six times last year and Widodo announcing a series of economic stimulus packages. Although Widodo's pledge of raising growth rates to seven percent a year looks unlikely, Indonesia's economic fundamentals have improved in recent years.

Standard and Poor's (S&P) upgraded Indonesia's sovereign bond rating to investment grade in May, bringing it in line with the two other major agencies, Moody's Investors Service and Fitch Ratings. The World Bank said in June Indonesia needed to press ahead with structural reforms to lessen its commodity dependence. Improving the tax-GDP ratio and reforming sectors protected from foreign investment should be priorities, the global lender said. — AFP

Minister: Germany should consider electric cars quotas

BERLIN: Germany should consider introducing binding quotas for electric cars for an automobile sector seeking to recover from a diesel emissions scandal and keep its place as a leading producer, deputy economy minister Matthias Machnig said yesterday.

The comments set up a possible policy clash with German carmakers, whose lobby group says it opposes such quotas. Britain said last month it would ban the sale of new petrol and diesel cars from 2040 in an attempt to reduce air pollution. The global auto industry debate could one day herald the end of more than a century of reliance on the combustion engine.

"We want Germany to remain the top car country in the future," Machnig told Reuters, adding that issues like digitalization and new technologies in motors would decide who stays at the top of the game. "That's why we should talk about a binding target to really get electromobility going in Europe and also in Germany," said Machnig, a member of the Social Democrats, junior coalition partners of Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives.

He added that the whole automobile industry faced a major upheaval that it would cope with using innovation. Machnig was reacting to a report in German newspaper Handelsblatt that cited European Union sources as saying the European Commission wanted to accelerate the retreat from combustion engines by setting a quota for low emission cars such as electric cars from 2025.

But the European Union said yesterday it had no plans to introduce quotas for electric cars for an automobile sector seeking to recover from the Volkswagen diesel scandal.

"Generally speaking, the Commision is looking into ways to promote use of low carbon energy and transport but none of them includes quotas for electric cars," a spokeswoman for the EU executive said. "We do not discriminate between different technologies," she added.

The Handelsblatt report said the sources believed a minimum sales level alongside stricter limits for C02 emissions were already part of measures to promote climate-friendly mobility that the Commission wants to present by the end of the year.

VDA auto industry lobby was quoted as saying: "We think such sales quotas are, in principle, the wrong choice." A spokesman for the German transport ministry said on Monday he was not aware of any suggestions about introducing a quota for electric cars or other low emission cars in the medium term.

Speaking at a government news conference, he said the transport ministry wanted Germany to remain a top car producer but wanted to be open regarding the technology to enable that. — Reuters

Dow hits record high again; Nasdaq higher

NEW YORK: The Dow hit another record high and the Nasdaq opened slightly higher yesterday, while the S&P was little changed. The Dow closed at a record high for the eighth straight session on Friday, powered by a robust July employment report that showed US employers added more jobs than expected in the month.

The report is likely to clear the way for the Federal Reserve to announce a plan to start shrinking its $4.2 trillion bond portfolio in September, and could strengthen its case to raise rates for the third time this year in December. "The jobs report was quite well-received on Friday despite suffering the same pitfall that has plagued the US recovery for years, inadequate wage growth," said Craig Erlam, senior market analyst at online forex broker Oanda.

At 9:36 am ET (1336 GMT), the Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 8.3 points, or 0.04 percent, at 22,084.51, the S&P 500 was down 0.42 points, or 0.01 percent, at 2,476.41. The Nasdaq Composite was up 9.36 points, or 0.15 percent, at 6,360.92. Six of the 11 major S&P sectors were lower, with the energy index's 0.49 percent fall leading the decliners.

Oil prices edged lower, sliding away from nine-week highs, as worries lingered over high production from OPEC and the United States. Meanwhile, investors will continue to closely track the second-quarter earnings season to see if pricey valuations are justified.

The S&P is trading at 18 times expected earnings, compared to its 10-year average of 14, according to Thomson Reuters Datastream.

Shares of United Technologies were down 1.56 percent following a report that the company has submitted an offer to buy aircraft component manufacturer Rockwell Collins. Rockwell was up 5.97 percent. Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway was down 1.19 percent after the company reported a drop in second-quarter profit.

Tyson Foods rose 3.74 percent after the No1 US meat processor reported better-than-expected quarterly profit and sales.

Europe mixed

European stock markets traded mixed yesterday despite investor enthusiasm over bright jobs data in the United States. Asian equities also advanced yesterday, spurred by the strong US figures on Friday which raised optimism over the health of the world's biggest economy.

US stocks started the week where the Dow left off Friday after the rosy employment figures had sent the US blue-chip index to an eighth straight record finish. In opening trading the Dow moved a few points higher, with the S&P 500 and Nasdaq Composite also rising.

London pushed ahead yesterday but Frankfurt was hobbled by lacklustre second-quarter earnings from German healthcare giant Fresenius. Paris was near flat. "European stock markets are quiet this morning," said analyst David Madden at CMC Markets UK. "The FTSE 100 is outperforming the eurozone benchmarks ... as mining companies are helping the London market. "Glencore, Anglo American, Rio Tinto and BHP Billiton are some of the biggest gainers on the FTSE 100 as the price of iron ore moved higher in Asia overnight." The US Labor Department reported that the economy added more than 200,000 net new positions for the second straight month-well above forecasts-with the unemployment rate falling back to a 16-year low.

Analysts said the robust job creation figures coupled with rising wages could spur the US Federal Reserve to raise the cost of borrowing a third time this year to keep a tight rein on inflation.

"The combination of stronger jobs and wage growth, a fall in the unemployment rate and an increase in the participation rate all scream a strong labour market," added Greg McKenna, analyst at AxiTrader."That, in turn, reinforces the Fed's path back toward policy normalization and suggests the tapering of the balance sheet will begin soon and more rate hikes are coming."

'Broad-based growth'

The prospect of higher rates has provided modest support for the greenback. Continuing political turmoil in Washington had cast doubt on President Donald Trump's stalled economic growth agenda and dragged the dollar down, and market-watchers warned the outlook for the dollar remains uncertain.

"Given typical August liquidity conditions, we could be in for a bumpy week as the market irons out if we're in a short-term USD correction or a trend reversal," said Oanda analyst Stephen Innes. In commodities trading, US crude was trading at around $49 as a meeting of leading oil-exporting countries gets underway to examine why some producers were failing to fully implement cuts to rein in global supply. — Agencies

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report

جلوبل Global

Monday 07 August 2017

Index		Change	Closing	Last Closing
Price index	▲	25.43	6,837.42	6,811.99
Weighted Index	▲	2.36	415.44	413.08
KSX 15	▲	5.88	951.08	945.20

Volume	56,044,887
Value (KWD)	10,443,376
Number of Trades	2,531

Security	High	Low	Trades Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last		Change
IPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	396	—	0.0
NAPESCO	915	915	430	393	1	915	—	0.0
ENERGYH	36.5	35.0	9,589	337	6	36.4	▲	1.3
GPI	39.7	39.2	842,150	33,146	33	39.5	▼	-0.3
ABAR	90	85	236,603	20,833	14	88	▼	-1.0
Oil & Gas			**1,088,772**	**54,709**	**54**	**1084.05**	▼	**-3.20**
KFOUC	280	280	100	28	1	280	▲	10.0
BPCC	570	570	11,086	6,319	3	570	—	0.0
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	600	—	0.0
ALQURAIN	353	341	924,728	322,852	45	353	▲	11.0
Basic Materials			**935,914**	**329,199**	**49**	**1266.14**	▲	**23.70**
KCEM	420	420	20,000	8,400	2	420	▼	-5.0
CABLE	440	430	88,934	38,992	10	439	▲	9.0
SHIP	206	205	156,131	32,032	20	206	▲	1.0
PCEM	960	960	10,000	9,600	7	960	▲	10.0
PAPER	280	280	2,500	700	1	280	▼	-10.0
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	94	—	0.0
ACICO	264	259	76,221	19,808	7	264	—	0.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	208	—	0.0
KBMMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	136	—	0.0
NICBM	188	165	15,065	2,791	3	180	▲	15.0
EQUIPMENT	45.9	43.0	440,000	19,637	23	44.6	▼	-3.4
NCCI	80	80	20,000	1,600	1	80	—	0.0
GYPSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95	—	0.0
SALBOOKH	59	59	11,024	654	2	59	▼	-0.9
AGLTY	839	820	377,572	314,409	95	836	▲	16.0
EDU	365	350	94,533	33,211	26	350	▼	-3.0
CLEANING	51	51	50	3	1	51	▲	4.0
KGL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	60	—	0.0
KCPC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	150	—	0.0
HUMANSOFT	4,289	4,289	400	1,716	1	4,289	▼	-11.0
NAFAIS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	195	—	0.0
GFC	65	65	5,477	357	2	65	▼	-9.8
SHOOTING	28.5	28.0	44,111	1,235	4	28.5	▼	-0.6
CGC	565	560	4,416	2,479	5	560	▼	-5.0
MTCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	56	—	0.0
UPAC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	770	—	0.0
ALAFCO	358	354	106,600	37,846	17	355	—	0.0
MUBARRAD	75	72	76,075	5,628	8	74	▲	3.9
LOGISTICS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	51	—	0.0
SCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	84	—	0.0
GCEM	80	76	203,490	16,032	12	80	▲	3.5
QIC	78	78	10,000	780	1	78	—	0.0
FCEM	80	80	51,860	4,124	4	80	▲	0.7
RKWC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	82	—	0.0
SPEC	95	93	179,900	16,982	8	94	▼	-1.1
Industrials			**1,994,359**	**569,014**	**260**	**1901.82**	▲	**3.00**
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	—	0.0
CATTL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	227	—	0.0
DANAH	73	72	250,000	18,085	8	73	▼	-0.5
FOOD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	2,100	—	0.0
Consumer Goods			**250,000**	**18,085**	**8**	**1023.17**	▼	**-1.20**
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	480	—	0
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,100	—	0
YIACO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	175	—	0
Health Care			**0**	**0**	**0**	**1683.91**	—	**0.00**
KCIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,399	—	0
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	250	—	0
SULTAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	67	—	0
CABLETV	25.5	25.5	293	7	1	25.5	▼	-2
EYAS	845	801	4,430	3,572	6	845	—	0
IFAHR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	285	—	0
OULAFUEL	120	119	13,385	1,605	10	120	▲	1
MUNTAZAHAT	79	75	73,010	5,476	5	79	—	0
JAZEERA	565	550	443,200	245,802	20	555	▼	-10
SOOR	123	122	78,948	9,682	21	123	▲	1
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	106	—	0
ALRAI	120	118	222,000	26,336	11	119	▲	1
Jiyad	52	50	150	8	2	52	—	0
Mezzan	895	895	269,019	240,772	12	895	—	0
Consumer Services			**1,104,435**	**533,259**	**88**	**1048.94**	▼	**-0.50**
ZAIN	450	441	3,970,828	1,768,862	270	448	▲	3
OOREDOO	1,165	1,150	9,840	11,372	17	1,165	▲	42
HITSTELEC	41.7	40.0	2,409,155	97,567	41	40.2	▼	-1
VIVA	801	800	29,356	23,486	36	800	—	0
Telecommunications			**6,419,179**	**1,901,287**	**364**	**597.24**	▲	**2.80**
NBK	706	700	2,940,330	2,067,384	64	706	▲	5
GBK	243	242	1,272,434	309,098	57	242	▼	-1
CBK	350	345	102,197	35,758	3	350	—	0
ABK	318	315	9,190	2,895	2	318	—	0
ALMUTAHED	415	405	999	413	3	415	▼	-2
KIB	246	244	25,100	6,125	2	246	▲	2
BURG	360	350	372,392	132,401	21	360	▲	5
KFIN	545	542	2,166,455	1,179,041	182	545	▲	3
BOUBYAN	415	412	289,753	119,576	21	415	▲	2
AUB	216	215	2,124,600	456,871	54	216	▲	1
ITHMR	41.6	40.9	3,651,609	150,199	117	40.9	▼	0
WARBABANK	266	265	349,696	93,140	109	266	▲	1
Banks			**13,304,757**	**4,552,900**	**635**	**944.18**	▲	**3.70**
KINS	250	249	10,250	2,553	2	249	▲	19
GINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	614	—	0.0
AINS	451	447	52,000	23,411	4	451	▲	1.0
WINS	98	80	10,277	955	6	97	▲	4.6
KUWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	187	—	0.0
FTI	61	57	118,681	6,790	11	57	▼	-2.5
WETHAQ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	51	—	0.0
BKIKWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	—	0.0
Insurance			**191,208**	**33,709**	**23**	**1063.54**	▲	**11.40**
SOKOUK	45.9	45.7	341265	15,603	10	45.7	▼	-0.1
KRE	62	61	792,806	48,206	28	61	▲	0.3
URC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	88	—	0.0
NRE	123	121	319,227	38,698	12	123	▲	3.0
SRE	370	350	569,800	199,787	17	365	▲	10.0
TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	400	—	0.0
AREEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	139	—	0.0
MASSALEH	41.0	41.0	83,200	3,411	2	41.0	▼	-2.0
ARABREC	34.0	33.3	154,950	5,256	8	34.0	▼	-0.2
ERESCO	40.5	39.9	220,700	8,880	9	40.5	▲	0.7
MABANEE	789	778	90,086	70,160	33	779	▼	-1.0
INJAZZAT	90	80	57,100	5,093	10	88	▼	-2.5
INVESTORS	24.2	24.0	230,500	5,538	5	24.0	▼	-0.2
IRC	32.0	30.9	199,100	6,250	8	31.9	▲	0.7
ALTIJARIA	81	80	87,677	7,080	5	81	▼	-0.6
SANAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	43.0	—	0.0
AAYANRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	85	—	0.0
AQAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	71	—	0.0
ALADARIA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	40.0	—	0.0
MAZAYA	115	114	185,552	21,193	9	114	—	0.0
THEMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	70	—	0.0
TIJARA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	59	—	0.0
TAAMEER	35.6	35.6	50	2	2	35.6	▲	0.4
ARKAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	86	—	0.0
ARGAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	160	—	0.0
ABYAAR	24.9	24.6	2,451,515	60,677	33	24.8	▼	-0.2
MUNSHAAT	54	51	77,004	4,106	7	54	▲	2.8
FIRSTDUBAI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	51	—	0.0
KBT	48.0	48.0	50,000	2,400	1	48.0	—	0.0
REAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	384	—	0.0
MENA	22.5	22.5	2,500	56	1	22.5	▼	-0.2
ALMUDON	38.5	38.0	173,700	6,627	7	38.0	▼	-0.9
MARAKEZ	42.5	42.5	100	4	1	42.5	▼	-1.0
REMAL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	70	—	0.0
AWJ	80	80	50,000	4,000	2	80	▲	2.0
Real Estate			**6,136,832**	**513,027**	**210**	**948.09**	▲	**2.30**
KINV	106	103	480,598	49,878	40	105	▲	4.5
FACIL	179	178	25,000	4,474	2	178	▲	1.0
IFA	36.6	35.0	997,900	35,242	34	36.2	▲	0.2
NINV	110	108	644,700	69,868	18	108	▼	-1.0
KPROJ	370	369	160,000	59,050	9	370	▲	1.0
COAST	42.0	40.5	573,900	23,887	26	41.9	▲	0.4
SECH	43.8	41.0	1,086,900	45,918	27	43.5	▼	-0.8
ARZAN	37.0	33.1	11,717	418	6	36.0	—	0.0
MARKAZ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	—	0.0
KMEFIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	28.9	—	0.0
ALAMAN	46.0	43.0	4,540	200	3	46.0	▲	0.5
ALOLA	46.9	45.4	50,501	2,293	5	45.4	▲	0.2
ALMAL	16.8	16.4	1,579,200	26,164	48	16.5	▼	-0.2
GIH	34.2	34.2	20,000	684	1	34.2	▼	-0.2
AAYAN	44.5	43.0	369,100	16,143	24	44.5	▼	-0.2
BAYANINV	50	49.5	631,912	31,394	48	50	▲	1.2
OSOUL	59	59	1,781	105	1	59	▲	0.2
KFIC	43.0	42.9	36,507	1,570	5	43.0	▲	2.8
KAMCO	77	77	2,625	202	2	77	▲	2.0
NIH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	69	—	0.0
UNICAP	44.4	42.0	435	19	6	44.0	▲	1.5
MADAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	19.0	—	0.0
ALDEERA	32.7	30.1	45,094	1,358	3	32.7	▼	-0.8
ALSALAM	58	54	10,573,849	584,930	240	56	▲	0.5
EKTTITAB	37.7	36.5	57,950	2,146	8	37.7	▲	1.2
ALMADINA	48.5	47.0	563,905	26,930	22	48.5	▲	0.8
NOOR	55	53	2,000	108	2	53	▼	-0.7
TAMINV	305	240	1,010	276	3	305	▲	5.0
EXCH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	158	—	0.0
KSHC	36.1	34.2	7,215	259	11	36.1	▲	0.2
ASIYA	41.0	40.2	56,267	2,268	9	40.3	▼	-0.7
GNAHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	35.6	—	0.0
AMWAL	44.8	44.8	10	0	1	44.8	▲	0.8
ALIMTIAZ	167	164	4,373,343	723,277	92	166	▲	2.0
MANAZEL	44.4	44.0	572,167	25,188	36	44.4	▲	0.4
NIND	138	137	636,603	88,125	27	138	▲	1.0
BIIHC	47.5	46.1	16,625	769	2	47.5	▼	-0.5
SENERGY	41.5	39.0	189,020	7,426	39	39.0	▼	-1.0
AGHC	90	86	284,143	25,384	9	90	▲	4.0
KPPC	51	50	79,274	3,988	7	51	▲	0.3
TAHSSILAT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	31.9	—	0.0
EKHOLDING	174	174	74,255	12,920	2	174	—	0.0
GFH	171	170	86,662	14,733	8	171	—	0.0
INOVEST	124	121	229,683	27,973	15	124	▲	1.0
Financial Services			**24,528,391**	**1,925,565**	**841**	**691.54**	▲	**5.10**
Investment Instruments			**0**	**0**	**0**	**1081.97**	—	**0.00**
ASC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	170	—	0.0
OSOS	126	124	116,810	14,585	3	126	▲	1.0
HAYATCOMM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	—	0.0
Technology			**116,810**	**14,585**	**3**	**637.04**	▲	**3.80**
SANAD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	100	—	0.0
AFAQ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	111	—	0.0
EFFECT	32.9	30.6	17,277	529	2	32.9	▼	-8.1
AJWAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	68	—	0.0
MASAKEN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	75	—	0.0
DALQAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	350	—	0.0
ALEID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	—	0.0
MIDAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,220	—	0.0
THURAYA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	204	—	0.0
AMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	39.5	—	0.0
Parallel Market			**17,277**	**529**	**2**	**1108.54**	▼	**-15.70**

National Bank of Kuwait Financial Markets Daily Report

الوطني NBK

At 02:00 PM Previous Day

Global Stock Indices

Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change		Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %
Dow Jones	22,026.10	22,092.81	66.71	▲	0.30	11.79
NASDAQ	6,340.34	6,351.56	11.22	▲	0.18	17.99
S&P 500	2,472.16	2,476.83	4.67	▲	0.19	10.60
Financial Times	7,511.71	7,520.17	8.46	▲	0.11	5.28
DAX	12,297.72	12,241.51	-56.21	▼	-0.46	6.65
CAC 40	5,203.44	5,203.13	-0.31	▼	-0.01	7.02
Swiss	9,176.99	9,158.14	-18.85	▼	-0.21	11.41
Nikkei 225	19,952.33	20,055.89	103.56	▲	0.52	4.93
Topix	1,631.45	1,639.27	7.82	▲	0.48	7.95
Hang Seng	27,562.68	27,690.36	127.68	▲	0.46	25.86
Straits Times	3,326.52	3,320.67	-5.85	▼	-0.18	15.27

MENA Stock Indices

Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change		Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %
Kuwait	6,811.99	6,837.42	25.43	▲	0.37	15.62
Saudi Arabia	7,094.28	7,108.94	14.66	▲	0.21	-1.61
Dubai	3,665.94	3,658.14	-7.80	▼	-0.21	3.83
Abu Dhabi	4,585.51	4,591.71	6.20	▲	0.14	0.86
Bahrain	1,319.97	1,324.39	4.41	▲	0.33	8.15
Qatar	9,345.37	9,342.56	-2.81	▼	-0.03	-10.46
Oman	5,022.43	5,042.31	19.88	▲	0.40	-13.15
Lebanon	1,152.60	1,146.85	-5.75	▼	-0.50	-4.96
Jordan	2,144.39	2,143.60	-0.79	▼	-0.04	-1.19
Egypt	13,558.46	13,687.53	129.07	▲	0.95	9.83
Morocco	12,174.11	12,179.02	4.91	▲	0.04	4.59
Tunisia	6,181.51	6,181.01	-0.50	▼	-0.01	12.62

Global Currencies Exchange Rate

Currency	Kuwaiti Dinar	Saudi Riyal	US Dollar	Euro	Sterling Pound	Swiss Franc	Japanese Yen	Australian Dollar
Kuwait Dinar		12.3061	3.2954	2.7920	2.5243	3.2025	365.20	4.1667
Saudi Riyal	0.08126		0.2678	0.2269	0.2051	0.2602	29.68	0.3386
US Dollar	0.30345	3.7343		0.8472	0.7660	0.9718	110.82	1.2644
Euro	0.35816	4.4076	1.1803		0.9044	1.1477	130.82	1.4925
Sterling Pound	0.39615	4.8751	1.3055	1.1057		1.2691	144.66	1.6506
Swiss Franc	0.31226	3.8427	1.0290	0.8713	0.7880		114.03	1.3011
Japanese Yen	0.00274	0.0337	0.0090	0.0076	0.0069	0.0088		0.0114
Australian Dollar	0.24000	2.9535	0.7909	0.6700	0.6058	0.7686	87.65	

MENA Currencies Exchange Rate

Currency	US Dollar	Kuwaiti Dollar	Saudi Riyal	Bahraini Dinar	Qatari Riyal	Omani Riyal	Emirates Dirham	Egyptian Pound
US Dollar		0.30345	3.7343	0.3742	3.6265	0.3835	3.6570	17.6550
Kuwaiti Dinar	3.2954		12.3061	1.2333	11.9509	1.2636	12.0514	58.1809
Saudi Riyal	0.2678	0.08126		0.1002	0.9711	0.1027	0.9793	4.7278
Bahraini Dinar	2.6721	0.81084	9.9784		9.6903	1.0246	9.7718	47.1756
Qatari Riyal	0.2757	0.08368	1.0297	0.1032		0.1057	1.0084	4.8683
Omani Riyal	2.6079	0.79137	9.7387	0.9760	9.4576		9.5371	46.0425
Emirates Dirham	0.2734	0.08298	1.0211	0.1023	0.9917	0.1049		4.8277
Egyptian Pound	0.0566	0.01719	0.2115	0.0212	0.2054	0.0217	0.2071	

Global Interest Rates

Currency	1-Week	1-Month	3-Month	6-Month	1-Year
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.19	1.56	1.75	2.00	2.25
US Dollar	1.19	1.22	1.31	1.45	1.73
Euro	-0.40	-0.40	-0.37	-0.29	-0.19
Sterling Pound	0.23	0.25	0.28	0.40	0.60
Swiss Franc	-0.78	-0.77	-0.72	-0.64	-0.50
Australian Dollar	1.54	1.60	1.59	1.61	1.66
Japanese Yen	-0.04	-0.04	-0.02	0.01	0.11

Global Bond Yields

Country	2-Year	5-Year	10-Year	30-Year
United States	1.36	1.83	2.27	2.85
Europe	-0.70	-0.22	0.48	1.22
United Kingdom	0.23	0.54	1.17	1.81

Commodities

Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change		Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %
Kuwait Oil	49.14	49.12	-0.02	▼	-0.04	-8.28
Brent	52.99	52.39	-0.60	▼	-1.13	-3.15
West Texas	49.62	49.52	-0.10	▼	-0.20	-8.32
Gold	1257.85	1256.80	-1.05	▼	-0.08	8.43
Silver	16.23	16.16	-0.07	▼	-0.41	1.80

Source: National Bank of Kuwait

Zain announces first week winners of 'Win Cash Daily' campaign

9 winners of KD 350 daily prize and one winner of KD 1000 weekly prize

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced the winners of the first week draw of its latest "Win Cash Daily" campaign, which offers postpaid customers a chance to win daily and weekly cash prizes as well as a grand cash prize of KD 5,000 at the end of the campaign.

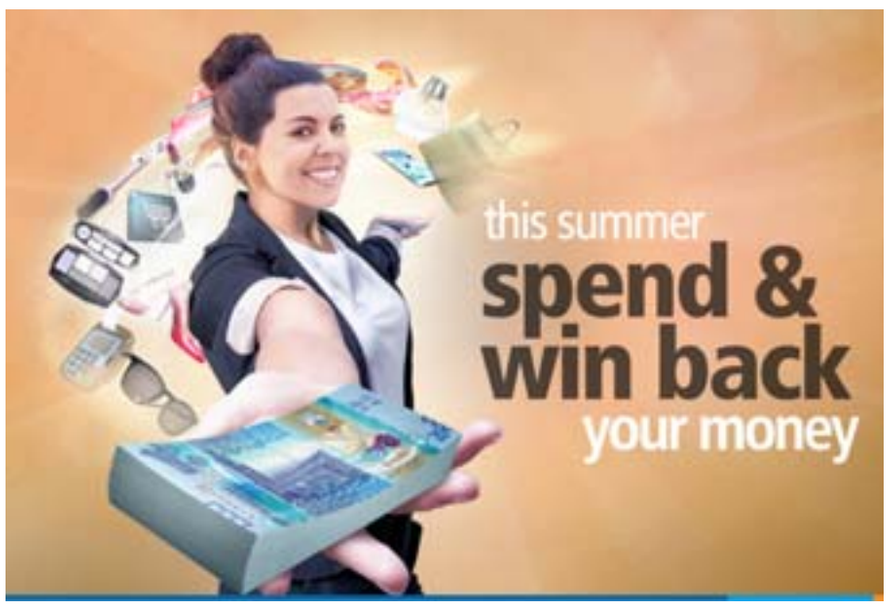
Zain announced the winners of the KD 350 daily cash prize: Mohammed Subhi Yousef Budair, Mohammed Ali Aziz Mahmoud Al-Omar, Shamma Mohammed Abdullah Al-Otaibi, Hessa Ayed Raji Al-Mutairi, Faleh Duraimeh Mutar Al-Mutairi, Yousef Marzouq Khalid Al-Omairah, Eaman Khalaf Mohammed Al-Daas, Hussein AbdulNabi Dawood Qambar, and Mahdi AbdulKarim AbdulRedha AbdulKarim. The company also announced the winner of the KD 1,000 weekly cash prize: Osama Mohammed Fahad Al-Rujaib. Zain launched this new campaign in partnership with Samsung Al-Babtain as part of its strategy to reinforce its relationship with its postpaid customers. The company is keen on offering the biggest campaigns and promotions along with the latest technologies to its customer base, considered the largest in the country.

The campaign runs for four weeks, where draws will be held on a daily basis. The prizes include a daily cash prize of KD 350, a weekly cash prize of KD 1000, and a grand cash prize of KD 5000 at the end of the campaign.

Customers who subscribe to any of

Zain's main postpaid plans starting at KD 23 and choose either a Samsung S8 or S8+ device will get a chance to win one of the daily prizes, weekly prizes, or the grand prize at the end of the campaign. In addition, customers who subscribe to the KD 40 postpaid plan and choose two Samsung S8 or S8+ devices will get TWO chances to win one of the valuable cash prizes.

Today's announcement is a testament of Zain's tireless efforts in rewarding its customer base, further reinforcing its leadership position. The campaign further demonstrates Zain's pivotal role in Kuwait's telecom sector, sparing no effort in introducing exceptional offerings for technology and smartphone enthusiasts.



Burgan Bank announces second winners of its cash back draw

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank is pleased to announce the second group of its summer campaign Cash Back draw winners for the month of June.

The lucky winners of the Cash Back draw are:

1. Rakan Khalaf Al-Anzi
2. Mohammad Abdullah Boualiyan
3. Mohammad Sadeq Al-Bather
4. Ill Teak Kwon-
5. Hamid Mahmoud Assad

Supporting its customers' seasonal financial needs and demands, Burgan Bank's recent summer campaign entitles its credit and ATM cardholders a chance to win back their spending when using their cards.

The seasonal offer is designed as a three month campaign that started on June 1st and ends 31st August 2017 and will announce five winners every month who will be refunded at a maximum amount of KD 1,000. Customers who spend more will have higher chances of winning as with every international transaction, they will receive two chances to enter the draw while every local transaction provides them with one such opportunity.

All credit card holders who make local or international transactions will enter the draw, As for the ATM card holders they will participate in the draw with international transactions only.

Burgan Bank debit and credit cards accommodate customers' different needs with flexibility and convenience for all financial transactions.

KFH-Takaful signs insurance agreement with Porsche Club

Stress on improving ties with youth segment

KUWAIT: Ahmed Al-Nowaif - Marketing and Development Department Manager at KFH-Takaful stressed the importance of improving ties with the youth segment and offering them unique insurance services along with special offers and promotions.

His statement was made on the sidelines of inking an agreement with Porsche Club to offer customers insurance services. He indicated that KFH-Takaful endeavors to provide unprecedented discounts to customers including Sanad for vehicles insurance.

Meanwhile, Vice Chairman Porsche Club, Eissa Khodhair said that the club is striving to offer the best to its members, while seeking to collaborate with the best companies that address the needs of Porsche buyers.

He added that the agreement with KFH-Takaful contributes in achieving the aspirations of the club as the company is eyed as a pioneer in the insurance sector.

KFH was established in Kuwait in 1977 and is enlisted in the Kuwait Stock Exchange. KFH Group is a global pioneer in the field of Islamic banking services, where it offers a wide array of Islamic products and services, not to mention a high standard of innovation and client service.

KFH manages its operations in the GCC, Asia, and Europe through over 480 branches, including KFH-Turkey, in order to offer services for the bank's clients in Turkey, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Germany, Jordan, and Dubai.

Officials shake hands after signing the agreement

KFH's mission is to achieve highest levels of excellence and innovation in the field of client service, while developing common interest for all those concerned with the financial institution. KFH's vision is to spearhead the global development in Islamic financial services, and to upgrade the bank into the level of becoming the most sustainable profitable Islamic bank in the world. KFH's values include cementing leadership through all its businesses, including leadership in the Islamic banking services worldwide, through innovation and in client service and the development of its employees. In addition, KFH is committed to all its procedures, and to setting up long-life partnerships with the concerned authorities.

Safe deposit lockers from AUB are best choice for customers

KUWAIT: To meet the requirements of customers during the summer and the current travel season, Ahli United Bank (AUB) announces its ability to entertain requests for Safe Deposit Lockers, which are ideal for safe-keeping valuables like documents and jewelry. They are considered the best choice to ensure peace of mind for customers, through storage of their precious and valuable belongings especially when they are away from home and travelling.

AUB explained, "Our Safe Deposit Lockers offer a diversified array of benefits that are ideal for customers in a secure and safe environment. The Bank provides multiple storage options, available in three sizes to meet customer requirements, which are small, medium and large. Customers can also obtain more than one Safe Deposit Locker.

AUB's Safe Deposit Lockers service provides easy access to the lockers during official working hours, in accordance with the procedures followed by the Bank.

The Bank provides the service at a charge as stated in the Bank's list of commissions, which is available at our branches or through our website in an effort to facilitate the overall process for customers wishing to safely deposit their valuable items and important documents in trusted safety lockers. The service is provided in the Bank's Main Branch and throughout its branches in Ahmadi, Salmiya, Jabriya, Yarmouk, Salwa, Sabah Al-Salem, South Surra, Shamiya, Mishref, Reqqa, Andalus, Sabahiya, Jaber Al-Ali, Ferdous, Ardia, Qadseya, Dahar, Sulaibikhat, Rabya, Khaitan, Oyoon and Jahra.

As part of Ahli United Bank's willingness to provide the best banking services for its customers with special needs, the Bank has allocated special Safe Deposit Lockers at a lower height that can be accessed by special needs customers using wheelchairs. The lockers are also equipped with Braille technology to facilitate visually impaired customers. The safety deposit lockers for special needs customers are available at lower charges being in line with the Bank's desire to provide improved facilities for them.

Gulf Bank announces winners of Al-Danah daily draws

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank held its Al-Danah daily draws on 6 August 2017 announcing the names of its winners for the week of 30 July - 3 August 2017. The Al-Danah daily draws include draws every working day for two prizes of KD 1,000 per winner.

The winners are:

(Sunday 30/7): Muhsen Abaes Esmaeel, Suad Abdullah Amanallah Al-Mousawi

(Monday 31/7): Ahmad Nasser Othman Al-Othman, Fatima Mohammed Redha

(Tuesday 1/8): Zamel Abdullah Ibrahim Al-Motawaa, Soghra Yaqoub Rustm

(Wednesday 2/8): Haya Khalaf Abdulhadi Al-Enzi, Kabra Yousef Jaber Hassan

(Thursday 3/8): Fahed Mutlaq Ali Al-Mutairi, Talal Soud Mohammad Al-Hwaishil

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah 2017 draw lineup includes daily draws (2 winners per working day and each receive KD1,000). Al-Danah's 3rd quarterly draw for the prize of KD500,000 will be held on 28 September. The final Al-Danah draw for KD 1 million will be held on 11 January, 2018 whereby the Al-Danah millionaire will be announced.

Gulf Bank encourages you to increase your chances by depositing more into your Al Danah account, immediately from any local bank, using the new ePay (Self-Pay) service, which is available on Gulf Bank's Online and Mobile Banking.

Five reasons why the Al-Danah account is the best:

1) Kuwait's single biggest yearly cash prize of KD 1 million and the largest international bank prize according to Guinness World Records

2) Kuwait's biggest quarterly cash prizes, up to KD500,000

3) Two winners of KD1,000 every working day

4) The most chances to win

5) Only Bank that transfers your chances to win from the previous year to the current year

Only Al-Danah makes millionaires.

Al-Danah also offers a number of unique services including: the Al-Danah Deposit Only ATM card which helps account holders deposit their money at their convenience; as well as the Al-Danah calculator to help customers calculate their chances of becoming an Al-Danah winner.

بنك الخليج
GULF BANK

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah account is open to Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti residents of Kuwait. Customers require a minimum of KD200 to open an account and the same amount must be maintained as for customers to be eligible for the upcoming Al-Danah draws.

If the customer's account balance falls below KD200 at any given time, a KD2 charge will be made on a monthly basis to the account until the minimum balance is met. Customers who open an account and/or deposit more will enter the daily draw within two days. To take part in the Al-Danah 2017 upcoming quarterly and yearly draws, customers must meet the required hold period for each draw; customers can visit one of Gulf Bank's 56 branches for assistance and guidance.

Eurozone economic growth accelerating

By Hayder Tawfik

On a quarterly basis the eurozone economy is growing albeit on a small scale. This is quite encouraging at a time of concern about UK leaving the European union, Donald Trump's discouraging talks about unfair trades by the US partners and threat of sanctions on Russia, China and Venezuela. On top of these the Euro has risen sharply against the US dollar and other major currencies.

The quarterly economic growth has expanded by a small amount of only 0.6 percent but this is higher than the previous quarterly growth of 0.5 percent. The economic growth is spreading throughout the 19 nations that represent the block. This is a sign of the block's upswing that is becoming increasingly robust and self-sustaining. All the economic numbers, business statistics, unemployment and manufacturing output are signaling that the block's economy is gaining stream and growing. This is encouraging for the European Central bank that has been supporting economic growth with its accommodative monetary policy and its refusal to reverse its quantitative policy.

The European Central banks is forecasting and expecting solid and broad based economic recovery in the months ahead. Based on the latest economic numbers, an acceleration in economic growth is something likely to happen. As long as inflation is underpinned by low wages and lower energy prices, the European Central bank is quite happy to continue with its easy monetary policy.

For the first time in a while, the French economy enjoyed its strongest continuous expansion in the second quarter, driven by exports and investment, while Spain experienced the fastest growth since 2015. Some other economies also gathered momentum. Although unemployment in Germany continued to decline the economy has surprisingly slowed down as its export led economy has been impacted by the strength of the euro mostly against the US$.

As for the eurozone corporate results that reflect the weakness or the strength of the economy, it has been surprisingly strong and quite encouraging. The strength of the corporate result has spread to most sectors. Led by luxury good items , food, staffing recruitment and chemicals, all have reported good results during the second quarter. The only sector that has been discouraging is the auto industry. That is something might worry the official in Germany. The German car industry employs about 20 percent of the entire German workforce. The European Central bank president Mr. Mario Draghi has expressed confidence that the solid, broad-based recovery will extend into the second half, with a healing labor market and a closing output gap fueling a sustained inflation pickup.

Positive sentiment among industries and investors hit a decade-high in July, with most industries saying they're working at a higher capacity and selling-price expectations increasing in all sectors. Inflation has been the sticking point in this economic recovery. Any price pressure or input prices have not been passed to consumers yet. This for the time being is good news for consumers. The inflation rate stayed at 1.3 percent in July, below the ECB's goal of below, but close to, 2 percent.

The hint of economic convergence among all industries should be encouraging to equity investors. The higher corporate earnings should make forward equity valuation quite attractive relative to some other region in particular the US stock market. Added to this the muted reaction by the European Central bank to any changes to its monetary policy makes European equites quite appealing to international investors. @Rasameel.

Ghana considers law to limit fiscal deficit to 5%

ACCRA: Ghana is considering passing a law that will restrict government's fiscal deficit to not more than 5 percent of GDP, the country's Senior Minister Yaw Osafo-Maafo said yesterday.

The proposed Fiscal Responsibility law will have provisions to punish government officials who exceed spending limits, Osafo-Maafo told a meeting of business leaders in the capital Accra. Ghana, which exports cocoa, gold and oil, is following a three-year program with the IMF to restore fiscal balance to an economy dogged by a high fiscal deficit and large public debt, after a period exuberance during the oil boom years. "We are proposing a Fiscal Responsibility Law that will restrict government spending within a band of 3-5 percent fiscal deficit-anything above five percent should be considered as an infringement," Osafo-Maafo said. The government of President Nana Akufo-Addo, which assumed office in January, plans to lower fiscal deficit to 6.3 percent in 2017, from 9.3 percent in 2016.

"The essence of the law is to get the economy back on track and make it impossible for any government to reverse the motion ... so people who break the limit would be made to suffer for it," he added. — Reuters

ABK presents customers with instant card issuance

KUWAIT: In line with its Simpler Banking strategy, Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) recently launched the Instant Card Issuance service, providing clients with the opportunity of receiving their Debit cards immediately while also instantly selecting their PIN.

The Instant Card Issuance service is available at selected ABK branches namely ABK Head Office, Hawally, Shuwaikh, Zahra and Saad Al-Abdullah, with plans to introduce further branches later this year.

ABK customers can now open an account, receive their new debit cards instantly from select branches, and request a replacement card due to lost or damaged cards from any branch as long as the card is collected at the selected branches above.

Whilst this service is currently for debit cards only, ABK will be launching the same for our credit and prepaid cards shortly. ABK's simpler banking strategy seeks to continuously present its customers with a simpler banking model through the launch of new and innovative services that offer more convenience and speed.

No More Ransom celebrates 1st incredible year

DUBAI: About one year ago the No More Ransom initiative was launched by the Dutch National Police, Europol, McAfee and Kaspersky Lab. Today there are more than 100 partners, as major ransomware attacks continue to dominate the news, hitting businesses, governments and individuals all over the world.

No better cure than prevention

Ransomware has soared since 2012, with criminals lured by the promise of profit and ease of implementation. Every quarter there are more new ransomware families, more variants of existing families, and more attacks. The threat continues to evolve, becoming stealthier and more destructive, and targeting businesses more than individuals because the potential returns are much higher. The indiscriminate WannaCry attack in mid-May claimed more than 300,000 business victims across 150 countries in its first few days, crippling critical infrastructure and businesses. Some organizations are still struggling to recover from ExPetr attacks of 27 June. The total number of users who encountered ransomware between April 2016 and March 2017 rose by 11.4 percent compared to the previous 12 months, from 2,315,931 to 2,581,026 users around the world.

First year in numbers

The site now carries 54 decryption tools, provided by 9 partners and covering 104 kinds (families) of ransomware. These tools have been downloaded 225.000 times and have managed to decrypt more than 28,000 devices. The portal has had more than 24.5 million page views since its launch, with a consolidated average of 0.4 million per day. On 14 May alone, during the WannaCry crisis, 150,000 people visited the website.

The No More Ransom platform is now available in 26 languages, with the most recent additions Bulgarian, Chinese, Czech, Greek, Hungarian, Indonesian, Malay, Norwegian, Romanian, Swedish, Tamil and Thai.

More than 100 partners

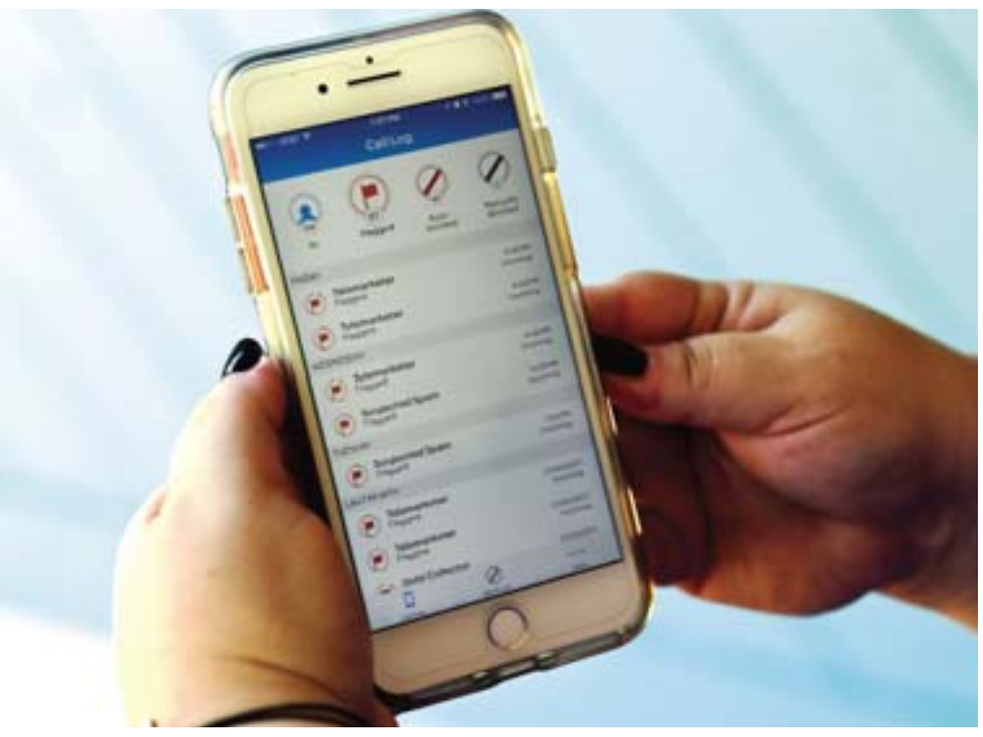
No More Ransom now has over 104 partners, including Associated, Supporting and Founding members. The most recent joins include, from the private sector: Bitsight, Fortinet, Claranet, CERT.BE, vpnMentor, KISA (Korean Internet & Security Agency), Global Forum on Cyber Expertise (GFCE), Bournemouth University (BU), EST Security, TWCERT/CC, Abelssoft, Ascora GmbH, InterWorks, LLC and CSA Singapore.

Three new law enforcement agencies have joined from Czech Republic, Greece, and Iran. The success of the No More Ransom initiative is a shared success, one that cannot be achieved by law enforcement or private industry alone. By joining forces, we enhance our ability to take on the criminals and stop them from harming people, businesses and critical infrastructure, once and for all.

Is there finally some relief from annoying robocalls?

Scammers reach people using autodialers

NEW YORK: For Michael Rizzo, answering the phone is too often a waste of time. His Sports City Pizza Pub in Buffalo, New York, depends on customers calling to order wings, pizza and potato skins. But much of the time, it's an automated message pushing a scam. "It's getting to the point where it's blocking other callers from coming in," the 24-year-old bar owner said. Help is coming, if slowly. Over the past year, prodded by the government, cellphones have added new tools to counteract unwanted "robocalls." The Federal Communications Commission has proposed letting phone companies block more spam and is hoping to deter scammers with big fines. Experts say these steps are not a cure-all, but they're a good start.



FLORIDA: In this photo, Jen Vargas looks at a call log displayed via an AT&T app on her cellphone at her home in Orlando, Florida.—AP

Why is this happening?

The federal and state "Do Not Call" lists are supposed to protect people from unwanted calls from telemarketers. But scammers don't care about breaking the law. Scammers reach people cheaply and easily using "autodialers," which spew out a large number of calls automatically. It's estimated that Americans receive tens of millions of robocalls every day. Not all of them are fraudsters, of course. Pharmacies send automated messages about prescriptions being filled.

But too often, it's this: you owe the IRS money; it's Microsoft calling to fix your computer; free cruises! And spam callers have tricky technology that makes a phone's caller ID display a local or important-looking caller, like the IRS. Cracking down on "spoofed" numbers would make running a scam more difficult and save US consumers millions of dollars, a group of state attorneys general said in an FCC filing.

What phone companies are doing?

Phone companies and independent apps can screen or block unwanted calls by checking them against databases of known problem numbers and analyzing suspicious behavior, like a number that's calling lots of people on Do Not Call lists. Wireless carriers also have tools that flag incoming calls with warnings like "scam likely," but they aren't available on all phones, or to many prepaid customers. The versions from Verizon and Sprint cost extra. A few Android phones, including Google's Pixel, screen spam calls for free. Jen Vargas, 39, a multimedia producer from Orlando, Florida, said her AT&T app flags and blocks some fraudulent calls to her cellphone, but she's given up with the landline.

"Very rarely do I pick up a call from a number I don't know," Vargas said. Apps including YouMail and Nomorobo offer relief on home phones for free, with limitations. With YouMail, your carrier must allow "conditional call forwarding," which forwards calls if a line is unanswered or busy. Nomorobo isn't available through all home phone providers and won't work with older, copper-based landlines. You can also buy gadgets , some pretty clunky, that block calls on home phones. Verizon is also testing warnings about suspicious calls on a home phone's caller ID display.

Help from the government

Phone companies can already block some calls that are being faked. The FCC has proposed rules to formalize that practice and permit them to block other calls they suspect are scams. That means Verizon can block a toll-free number that accepts calls for a bank but never initiates a call. Carriers would also be able to block calls they know aren't legitimate, like a number with a 911 area code. The rules still need to be finalized.

Maureen Mahoney, a public policy fellow at the nonprofit Consumers Union, said the development is "promising," but won't protect consumers from all unwanted calls. For one thing, "Do Not Call" lists don't apply to certain types of callers, such as debt collectors and political campaigns. In addition, Mahoney said, the FCC rules would cover only faked numbers. Not all robocalls are spoofed. Consumers Union wants phone companies to make call-blocking tools available to all consumers for free. In the longer term, the FCC supports industry efforts to verify that callers are really who they say they are.

Perhaps one day, you'll see a green checkmark on your smartphone when the caller is legitimate. US Telecom, the phone-company lobby, says rolling this out could take a few years, but would prove powerful against robocallers. The FCC is also seeking ways to stop annoying calls from dogging consumers when they change numbers. Today, if you sign up for Do Not Call but then get a new number, a marketer may not know and could pester you on your new line.

What can you do?

Robocallers aren't going away, said Aaron Foss of Nomorobo, a call-blocking service for cellphones and home phones. "These guys are criminals and they're going to find their way around any system. But it's our job to make sure we make it as difficult for them as possible." There are common-sense measures for consumers to follow. Don't answer the phone if you don't recognize the number. (Yes, this is impractical on business phone lines, like Sports City's.)

Hang up on unwanted callers. Don't talk to them or press any buttons. If you engage with them, they might flag you as someone who's responsive and inundate you with more calls. Block the number after the call, if possible. Use call-blocking apps. If you have privacy concerns, check the app's policy to see if it's sharing your call or contacts data with marketers. Don't give callers personal information, like bank account or Social Security numbers.—AP

TOKYO: In this photo, SoftBank Group Corp. Chief Executive Officer Masayoshi Son speaks during a SoftBank World presentation in Tokyo.—AP

SoftBank adding technology ambitions, with ARM, robotics

TOKYO: Photo ops of SoftBank Chief Executive Masayoshi Son sometimes show him chatting happily with his company's humanoid robot, the childlike Pepper, or grinning as President Donald Trump heaps praise on him for creating American jobs. It's clear Son, Japan's richest person, stands out in Japan Inc. He is no "salaryman" president, those typical executives who rise gradually and quietly through the ranks, Japan-style, in a corporate culture that frowns upon mavericks and tends to squelch self-made ventures.

Since founding SoftBank in 1981, Son, a Japanese of Korean ancestry who graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, has won both criticism and accolades as a daring investor who has gathered partners in diverse technology sectors from around the world. Sometimes those adventures cost him. But often, they have paid off. SoftBank Group Corp. reported Monday a 98 percent drop in its April-June profit at 5.5 billion yen ($50 million) on losses stemming from investments in the Chinese e-commerce company Alibaba.

Quarterly sales rose 3 percent to 2.19 trillion yen ($20 billion), while the Tokyo-based company's operating profit, which highlights core operations, logged a 50 percent increase year-on-year as its US mobile carrier Sprint, previously a drain on the bottom line, boosted profitability. The first telecoms carrier to offer the iPhone in Japan, SoftBank has bought British semiconductor company ARM. Its acquisition of US robotics pioneer Boston Dynamics is awaiting regulatory approval.

Recently, it has announced it will invest in Encored, a US company specializing in IoT technology in the energy sector. Son believes artificial intelligence combined with data gathered by billions of sensors will benefit people more than the 19th Century Industrial Revolution, helping to treat cancer, deliver accident-free driving and grow safer food. Son also has money to invest: a private fund he set up last year for global investments in the technology sector, called the Vision Fund, with the potential to grow to as much as $100 billion.

Information revolution

Trump has praised him for promising to invest $50 billion in US startups to create 50,000 jobs. Son stressed at a news conference Monday that his company was neither an old-style Japanese "zaibatsu," a business conglomerate with roots dating to the 19th century Meiji Era, nor a venture capital outfit pursuing a quick payback. SoftBank tries to influence strategy in the businesses it invests in, without exerting outright control or overhauling their management, he said, instead collaborating on a shared vision of what he called the "information revolution."

"We don't try to stamp our color on our group companies," he said. "We feel a brand should be free." Son's spectacular rags-to-riches story, making one big acquisition after another including an approximately 40 percent stake in Yahoo in the 1990s, has left many skeptical over what appears to be a risky way to run a business, said Satoru Kikuchi, a senior analyst at SMBC Nikko Securities Co. But as he added stakes in one technology powerhouse after the other, names like Microsoft Corp., Novell, Cisco Systems, Ziff-Davis and Comdex, Son has shifted gears when necessary, adjusting his portfolio and often emerging a winner and winning trust from key investors, Kikuchi said.

"His goal is to become the No. 1 company in the world through expanding in the technology area," he said. "He has the ability to gather money and information. He can act, and he can make decisions." In a recent, nearly three-hour presentation in Tokyo, Son presented some of the ventures he is partnering with, including OneWeb, whose founder and chairman Greg Wyler wants to use satellites instead of underground cables to provide affordable internet access for everyone. He showed off Spot, a four-legged robot that can climb steps and dance.

ARM's chips are found in nearly all smartphones and wearables, he noted. Data gathered from such omnipresent sensors provide far more comprehensive data than what can be gathered through mobile phones or computers, Son said. "Those who rule chips will rule the entire world. Those who rule data will rule the entire world." Son said. "That's what people of the future will say." SoftBank also runs a solar power business, which Son plunged into with fervor after the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster in northeastern Japan. His business empire also includes financial-technology, ride-booking services and a baseball team, the Softbank Hawks.

Takenobu Miki, who worked closely with Son in the late 1990s and early 2000s, says Son excels in bringing together partners whom he thinks will be instrumental in the future. Big Japanese companies often hoard resources like money, facilities and employees. Son doesn't, says Miki, who now has his own business, Japan Flagship Project Co., which provides consulting and project management, among other services. He says those who criticize Son for chasing quick bucks misjudge him. "What you don't want is an unprofitable company," said Miki. "And he has a passion, a dream."—AP

Never too old to code: Meet Japan's 82-year-old app-maker

FUJISAWA, Japan: When 82-year-old Masako Wakamiya first began working she still used an abacus for maths-today she is one of the world's oldest iPhone app developers, a trailblazer in making smartphones accessible for the elderly. Frustrated by the lack of interest from the tech industry in engaging older people, she taught herself to code and set about doing it herself. The over 60s, she insists, need to actively search out new skills to stay nimble.

"As you age, you lose many things: your husband, your job, your hair, your eyesight. The minuses are quite numerous. But when you learn something new, whether it be programming or the piano, it is a plus, it's motivating," she says. "Once you've achieved your professional life, you should return to school. In the era of the internet, if you stop learning, it has consequences for your daily life," Wakamiya explains during an AFP interview at her home near Tokyo.

She became interested in computers in the 1990s when she retired from her job as a bank clerk. It took her months to set up her first system, beginning with BBS messaging, a precursor to the internet, before building her skills on a Microsoft PC, and then Apple's Mac and iPhones. She asked software developers to come up with more for the elderly, but a repeated lack of response led her to take matters into her own hands. Wakamiya learned the basics of coding and developed 'Hinadan' one of Japan's first dedicated app games for the over-60s-she is now in such demand that this year Apple invited her to participate at their prestigious Worldwide Developers Conference, where she was the oldest app creator to take part.

Source of inspiration

'Hinadan'-'the doll staircase'-was inspired by the Hina Matsuri, a doll festival which takes place every March, where ornamental dolls representing the emperor, his family and their guests are displayed in a specific arrangement. In Wakamiya's app, users have to put them in the correct positions-a task which is harder than it sounds, requiring memorization of the complex arrangements. The app, which is currently only available in Japanese, has been downloaded 42,000 times with hundreds of positive comments from users.

And while these figures are relatively small compared to Japan's big-hitting apps which are downloaded in their millions, 'Hinadan' has proved popular enough that Wakamiya plans to release English, Chinese and possibly French versions of the app before next year's festival. Its success has propelled her on to the tech world stage, despite the industry's reputation for being notoriously ageist In Silicon Valley, workers in their 40s are considered old by some firms and according to media reports citing research firm Payscale, the median age for an employee at Facebook is 29 and at Apple is 31.

But international tech firms and start-ups are slowly waking up to the economic potential of providing for silver surfers, and Wakamiya has already met with Apple's chief executive Tim Cook. Wakamiya recalls: "He asked me what I had done to make sure that older people could use the app. I explained that I'd thought about this in my programming-recognizing that older people lose their hearing and eyesight, and their fingers might not work so well." "Mr Cook complimented me," she says proudly, adding that he had hailed her as a "source of inspiration".

FUJISAWA: This picture shows 82-year-old programmer Masako Wakamiya speaking during an interview with AFP in Fujisawa, Kanagawa prefecture.—AFP

No time for sickness

Wakamiya concedes that she finds "writing lines of code is difficult" but has a voracious appetite to learn more. "I want to really understand the fundamentals of programming, because at the moment I only learned the elements necessary for creating Hinadan," she explains. More than a quarter of Japan's population is aged 65 and above, and this is projected to rise to 40 percent by 2055. The government is struggling to ensure its population remains active and healthy-and so also see the dynamic octogenarian as an inspiration.

"I would like to see all Japanese elderly people have the same motivation," one official said. Wakamiya says her ultimate goal is to come up with "other apps that can entertain older people and help transmit to young people the culture and traditions we old people possess". "Most old people have abandoned the idea of learning, but the fact that some are starting (again) is not only good for them but for the country's economy," said Wakamiya, who took up the piano at 75. Hinting that her good health is down to an active mind and busy life, she adds: "I am so busy everyday that I have no time to look for diseases."—AFP

China's web users fear losing tools to bypass 'Great Firewall'

BEIJING: Enterprising internet users in China fear the tools they use to tunnel through the country's "Great Firewall" may soon disappear, as Beijing tightens its grip on the web. Tens of millions of people are estimated to use Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) to bypass Chinese internet restrictions-getting access to blocked websites such as Facebook and Twitter. Beijing has for years turned a blind eye to these holes in its Great Firewall, but recent events suggest the virtual tunnels may soon be bricked up.

In January China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) announced it would be banning the use of unlicensed providers of the services. In the months since the rule's announcement, rumors have swirled that a crackdown was coming, but there was little clarity on what exactly the rule meant and how, or even if, it would be implemented. In the past few weeks, however, omens of significant tightening seem to be everywhere.

Several luxury hotels in Beijing have said they will stop using the tools, which once provided unfiltered Internet as a convenience to their customers. On Thursday, a cloud service provider in the capital notified users that it would practice shutting down and reporting VPN providers on the orders of Beijing's Public Security bureau. Tech giants Apple and Amazon, too, have moved to limit their customers' access to the tools in China in what has been seen as a voluntary move to get ahead of the impending crackdown.

On Sunday, Apple said it was removing a number of the programs from its app store, while Amazon's Chinese partner said that customers would no longer be allowed to use "illegal" VPNs on its cloud service. "There have been many rounds of government murmurings about VPN crackdowns, and foreign and Chinese businesses had grown used to only minor or temporary restrictions," said Graham Webster, a senior researcher scholar at Yale Law School. But "this time appears different." For now, however, it still remains unclear who will be able to access VPNs and under what circumstances, a situation that has left both companies and regular users on tenterhooks. —AFP

Night swim leaves Australian teen bloody and bewildered

SYDNEY: An Australian teenager emerged from a night-time dip in the ocean with blood streaming from his feet and ankles in a gruesome mystery that doctors have struggled to explain. Sam Kanizay waded waist-deep into the water at Brighton Beach in suburban Melbourne on Saturday evening, standing still for about 30 minutes. When he came out of the sea he was bleeding profusely from the calves down. "The cold water numbed my legs. I felt what I thought was pins and needles but maybe it wasn't just pins and needles," the 16-year-old told 3AW radio yesterday.

Washing the blood off his legs in the shower did little to stem the flow from what his family believed was an attack by sea lice. "It sort of looked like hundreds of little pin holes or pin-sized bites distributed all over my ankle and the top of my foot," he said. Kanizay, who was rushed to hospital, said doctors could not explain what had caused the injury.

"We had a few people guessing that it was sea lice, but no one really had any ideas." His father went as far as scooping some of the tiny critters from the ocean and posting a film online of them devouring small chunks of meat.

Some reports cited experts pointing instead to stingrays or jellyfish as the suspected culprits. But Jeff Weir, from the Dolphin Research Institute, said the injury was likely caused by opportunistic amphipods, a tiny crustacean that latches onto decaying plant or animal matter to help break it down. "They are not there to eat us, but sometimes they might take a little bit, like mosquitoes and leeches and other things out there in the environment," he said.

MELBOURNE: In this picture at Sandringham Hospital in Melbourne, teenager Sam Kanizay's feet are seen covered in what looked like hundreds of bleeding little pin holes.— AP

"He (Kanizay) must have been very, very cold and he wouldn't have felt it," added Weir, who experienced a similar injury on his forehead after a night dive 40 years ago. The veteran marine researcher said Kanizay's injury was much like a graze and he should not fear returning to the water. "I don't think there has been anything that has changed, there just aren't that many people that stand really still for that long."— AFP

NETHERLANDS: Farmers dispose of eggs at a poultry farm in Onstwedde, Netherlands. —AFP

Dutch farmers 'powerless' in the face of contaminated eggs

EDE, Netherlands: In the dark and silent shed of a small Dutch poultry farm, 1.8 million eggs closely packed together wait to be destroyed. In the barn, the machine that sorts and packages the eggs has been shut off and its rolling belt is starting to gather dust. In the empty courtyard, the woman of the house and a worker perform small jobs. But the fields are empty and the chickens are invisible.

Wim ten Ham's farm in the central Dutch town of Ede-where dozens of poultry farms are reputed for their eggs-is one of hundreds of farms whose eggs are suspected of having been contaminated by the insecticide fipronil.

Contamination with the toxic chemical has prompted supermarkets in Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany to remove millions of eggs from their shelves, including the discount supermarket giant Aldi which announced Friday it was pulling all Dutch eggs from stores in Germany. Authorities in Switzerland and Sweden also said they were tracking shipments and removing eggs, as the impact of the affair widened.

The Dutch food authority (NVWA) also shuttered 138 poultry farms-about a fifth of those in the country-and warned that eggs from another 59 farms contained high enough levels of fipronil that it warned they should not be eaten by children. Fipronil is commonly used in veterinary products to get rid of fleas, lice and ticks. But it is banned from being used to treat animals destined for human consumption, such as chickens. In large quantities, the insecticide is considered to be "moderately hazardous" according to the World Health Organization, and can have dangerous effects on people's kidneys, liver and thyroid glands.

'I feel powerless'

"We are closed and will remain closed until we are able to prove that fipronil has been eliminated from our chickens and is no longer present in our eggs," ten Ham said. When his farm's eggs were tested, authorities found that they contained 0.30 mg/kg of the toxic insecticide when only a level of 0.005 mg/kg is allowed. To eradicate fipronil from his farm, ten Ham has two choices: destroy all 68,000 of his chickens, which would cost 400,000 euros ($471,000), or induce a moult and evacuate the birds' droppings.

According to members of the Dutch poultry union, fipronil is lodged in the chickens' abdominal fat and moulting can reduce it, as the agriculture site Boerderij reported. During the moulting, which generally begins in autumn due to the decrease in light, the bird sheds feathers and loses fat. Ten Ham has since plunged his nearly 70,000 chickens into darkness and put them on a modified diet to make it easier for them to lose fat. Chickens can remain contaminated for between six to eight weeks. "I feel powerless," ten Ham said, adding that he understood rules needed to be upheld but lamented the strict regulations.

"It's trade protectionism," he said. "It's only to keep the economy going". Belgian officials admitted Saturday they knew in early June there was a potential problem over eggs contaminated with fipronil but kept it secret because of an ongoing fraud investigation. German Agriculture Minister Christian Schmidt has pressed the authorities, particularly in Belgium and The Netherlands, to clear up the situation, which he said was done with "criminal intent". It is believed the toxic substance was introduced to poultry farms by a Dutch business named Chickfriend brought in to treat red lice, a nasty parasite in chickens. Dutch and Belgian media reports that the substance containing the insecticide was supplied to Chickfriend by a Belgian firm have not been confirmed. Belgium's food safety agency (AFSCA) has said a criminal probe, in cooperation with prosecutors, had been launched.

Talk about compensation

With losses expected to run into millions of euros, it is another blow for Dutch poultry farmers after 190,000 ducks were culled in November amid a highly infectious strain of bird flu. Ten Ham has no choice but to wait until fipronil disappears and his eggs are back to containing acceptable levels of the insecticide before he can count up his losses. "Those who decide pay: they determine the rules, they decide that these eggs are not good enough," the farmer said. — AFP

As eels grow in value, US clamps down on poaching

BREWER, Maine: Changes in the worldwide sushi industry have turned live baby American eels into a commodity that can fetch more than $2,000 a pound at the dock, but the big demand and big prices have spawned a black market that wildlife officials say is jeopardizing the species.

Law enforcement authorities have launched a crackdown on unlicensed eel fishermen and illicit sales along the East Coast. Although not a well-known seafood item like the Maine lobster, wriggling baby eels, or elvers, are a fishery worth many millions of dollars.

Elvers often are sold to Asian aquaculture companies to be raised to maturity and have become a linchpin of the sushi supply chain. But licensed US fishermen complain poaching has become widespread, as prices have climbed in recent years. In response, the US Department of Justice, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies are investigating clandestine harvesting and sales. Operation Broken Glass, a reference to the eels' glassy skin, has resulted in 15 guilty pleas for illegal trafficking of about $4 million worth of elvers.

Two people are under indictment, and more indictments are expected. In Maine, more than 400 licensed fishermen make their living fishing for elvers in rivers such as the Penobscot in Brewer and the Passagassawakeag in Belfast every spring. They say law enforcement is vital to protecting the eels and the volatile industry. Randy Bushey, of Steuben, has been fishing for elvers since 1993. He said he saw his income balloon from as little as $5,000 per year in the 1990s to more than $350,000 in 2012. He said tighter quotas mean he's earning less these days, and in the most recent season he made about $57,000. "I've seen the best, and I've seen the worst," Steuben said. "I want to see it preserved. I want to see it straightened out." The elvers are legally harvested in the US only in Maine and South Carolina. The American eel fishery was typically worth $1 million to $3 million per year until 2011, when the economics of the industry changed. Asian and European eel stocks dried up, and the value of American eels grew to more than $40 million in 2012 because of demand in China, South Korea and other Asian countries.

Investigators also turned their eyes to poaching in 2011, the Department of Justice told The Associated Press. The investigation of people who catch, sell or export elvers illegally has ranged from Maine to South Carolina; a New York seafood distributor was among those netted. In one case, federal prosecutors said, three men pleaded guilty in November 2016 to trafficking more than $740,000 worth of elvers harvested illegally from the Cooper River in the Charleston, South Carolina, area. In another, Richard Austin pleaded guilty in federal court in Norfolk, Virginia, to trafficking more than $189,000 in illegally harvested elvers from 2013 to 2015.

MAINE: In this photo, baby eels swim plastic bag after being caught near Brewer, Maine.

Eel harvesting

The federal agencies involved in the poaching investigations say there's no end date for their probe. The Department of Justice declined to speculate on how many poachers there are and how many arrests are expected. A conviction for violating the Lacey Act, which prohibits illegal wildlife trade, can carry a penalty of up to five years in prison and a fine of as much as $250,000. Investigators go undercover to track poachers, posing as people illegally fishing for elvers.

MAINE: In this photo, a dish of eel nigiri is served at Miyake, a Japanese restaurant, in Portland, Maine. — AP photos

They also follow eel migrations, hoping to catch illegal fishermen on the spot. Investigators also track catch records, which are required by states, to look for possible illegal fishing and selling along the supply chain. The legwork is necessary because illegal trade in elvers jeopardizes the species' long-term sustainability, said Jeffrey H. Wood, acting assistant attorney general with the Department of Justice's environmental division.

Maine's fishery for elvers is the biggest on the East Coast, making it the sole reliable source of the eels in the US to prevent overfishing, fishermen are limited to catching them for only a few weeks every spring. The eels hatch in the ocean waters of the Sargasso Sea, a weedy patch of the Atlantic Ocean between the West Indies and the Azores. They then follow currents back to rivers and streams from Greenland to Brazil. Mature eels that avoid hazards including fishermen's nets, predatory fish and the turbines of hydroelectric plants will one day return to spawn in the Sargasso. The baby eels are tiny at the time of harvest, weighing only a few grams when they are scooped with dip-nets or trapped with larger nets that resemble small soccer goals. A well-managed eel fishery is critical to the health of the rivers and streams they swim in, said US Fish and Wildlife Service Deputy Chief of Law Enforcement Ed Grace.

Eels are important to the marine ecosystem because they serve as both predator and prey, feeding on fish and mollusks and serving as food for larger fish, seabirds and turtles.

"While the big charismatic animals like bears, big cats and eagles tend to grab all the public attention, it's often the smaller, more obscure animals that are crucial to regional ecosystems and economies," Grace said. Some eels harvested in Maine eventually return to the US as sushi dishes such as unagi. They're also used for other food products, such as grilled eel dishes popular in Asia. — AP

Transform your ideas into reality with LOYAC

At the framework of cooperation between LOYAC and Babson College, the "BE" Program for Social activities was recently launched and will continue the end of the current month. More than 45 students where their ages vary between 12 to 16 years are participating in this program. The participants were divided into different teams and will be trained by experienced supervisors who were trained by specialists and consultants from Babson University.

The program includes an integrated educational material that includes three stages: "Thinking, Planning and Implementation", and includes many seminars with specialists, field visits and activities that simulate the minds of youths and unleash their creativities. Alaa Nasser, Senior Coordinator for Training and Development at LOYAC, said that a competition will be held at the end of the program to evaluate the students' projects and present them to a panel of economists from Agility, the American University and Babson academics to select the top three projects within the criteria of quality, excellence and innovation.

LOYAC will adopt and support the winning projects to ensure their effective role and participation in economic and social development plans through encouraging and sponsoring small enterprises. Iman Al-Omar, coordinator of training and development programs at LOYAC said, "The initiative aims to help students transfer their ideas into a successful work, confront social challenges and find a variety of ways to solve them."

She pointed out that the Community Project is part of the Youth Initiatives Program to promote social responsibility for youths. It also aims to train them how to take social responsibility at an early age, use innovative methods and adopt projects that have a wide social impact. LOYAC has adopted the project of the winner student Tasnim Al-Enezi at the first stage of the program on 2016 who designed T-shirts supporting human rights.

PAAET to host 8th sports tournament

By Islam Sharaa

Director General of Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) Dr Ahmad Al-Athari chaired the first meeting of the higher organizing committee of the 8th sports tournament for GCC universities and higher education institutions, which PAAET will host from November 5 to 11, 2017 on its Shuwaikh and Ardhiya playgrounds. Dr Al-Athari welcomed reps from the authority and Ministry of Information and lauded the spirit of cooperation they have.

Meanwhile, Students Affairs Dean at PAAET Dr Hussain Al-Mukaimi said he was happy for the authority's hosting of this important event adding that there will be around 800 participants in it from 15 universities and institutions, and may increase as registration is still open through the official website. He said the tournament have eight games including football, volleyball, athletics, swimming, tennis, table tennis and marathon. Dr Al-Athari also launched the official website of the tournament: http://paaetwp.paaet.edu.kw/st

Enjoy stay at Hilton Kuwait Resort for the perfect summer vacation

Looking for the ultimate staycation this summer? Look no further - Hilton Kuwait Resort is the perfect choice for those looking for a unique, contemporary destination offering classic Arabian hospitality. Whether taking a short break close to home if you won't be travelling abroad, or an extended trip to recharge your batteries, the Resort is a truly special place and offers guests the chance to discover and enjoy its impressive first-class facilities and services, including fine dining options, spa treatments, and superb accommodation.

For GGC residents or locals who are keen to enjoy a staycation this year, Hilton Kuwait has an exclusive summer package on offer. Book a 2-night stay and you will be treated to a whole host of benefits including a 70 percent discount on all Spa facilities and treatments and a 25 percent discount on lunch or dinner at Teatro restaurant. If it's fun and adventure you are looking for then Hilton Kuwait Resort has everything covered - other perks include free rides for two people on a banana boat or an inflatable for Villas guests, and free PlayStation games for two hours in the games corner.

With special prices also offered by Delham and Visitor shops throughout the Resort, it really is the perfect place to enjoy your summer retreat. In addition, Royal Villa residents can get free lunch or dinner buffet for 8 people once during their stay. Guests can choose from a variety of comfortable and stylishly decorated accommodation, offering views of the tranquil garden or out to the beautiful Arabian Gulf. Those visiting the Hilton Kuwait Resort will be spoiled for choice, with options including rooms, studios and chalets at unbeatable prices.

The facilities and services are second-to-none and designed to exceed the expectations of guests. As well as two outdoor pools, five blissful sandy beaches, a spa with an extensive variety of treatments and services, and a fully-equipped gym, Hilton Kuwait Resort ensures guests can enjoy a unique dining experience with every meal. Foodies can enjoy a truly memorable dining experience in a private air-conditioned tent and sample authentic Arabic fare, accompanied by a delicious mocktail at Palm Court.

The Convention Center & Royal Suites Hotel hosts blood donation campaign

The Convention Center & Royal Suites Hotel - Free Trade Zone is always keen into permanent contribution of blood donation. The hotel management took a step forward to achieve its social responsibility activity for the year by organizing a blood donation campaign in coordination with Central Blood Bank of Kuwait. This activity was conducted on Aug 6, 2017 at Convention Center & Royal Suites.

The management of the hotel also is thankful for the efforts of the Central Blood Bank of Kuwait and its diligent efforts in everything that is in the interest of the homeland and its constant efforts to provide awareness campaigns for the Kuwaiti society to donate blood because of the health benefits of the donor as well as the social health of the community. Mohamed Sami In-Charge for Operations also praised the great attendance of blood donator from the staff of the Convention Center & Royal Suites along with staffs of ITHC & Movenpick

OSN MOVIES ACTION

01:05 The Dead Room
02:25 Larceny
04:00 Ladder 49
06:00 Bermuda Tentacles
07:30 In The Heart Of The Sea
09:30 Larceny
11:05 Ladder 49
13:00 The Lovers
14:50 In The Heart Of The Sea
16:55 6 Ways To Sundown
18:40 Crossfire
20:10 In Time
22:00 Shanghai Knights
23:55 The Green Inferno

ANIMAL PLANET HD

00:45 Treehouse Masters
01:40 Bad Dog
02:35 Man-Eating Super Snake
03:25 Catching Monsters
04:15 Lair Of The Killer Crocs
05:02 Mutant Planet
05:49 Untamed & Uncut
06:36 Swamp Brothers
07:00 Swamp Brothers
07:25 Man-Eating Super Snake
08:15 Treehouse Masters
09:10 Bad Dog
10:05 Mutant Planet
11:00 Man-Eating Super Snake
11:55 Catching Monsters
12:50 Lair Of The Killer Crocs
13:45 Bad Dog
14:40 Mutant Planet
15:35 Untamed & Uncut
16:30 Treehouse Masters
17:25 Dog Rescuers
18:20 Guardians Of Rescue
19:15 Bad Dog
20:10 Untamed China With Nigel Marven
21:05 Dog Rescuers
22:00 Guardians Of Rescue
22:55 Mutant Planet
23:50 Untamed & Uncut

BBC FIRST

00:45 Orphan Black
01:30 Orphan Black
02:10 Silent Witness
03:10 Silent Witness
04:15 Father Brown
05:05 Death In Paradise
06:00 Casualty
06:55 The Coroner
07:45 Death In Paradise
08:40 Doctor Who
09:35 Father Brown
10:25 The Coroner
11:15 Death In Paradise
12:05 Doctor Who
13:00 Father Brown
13:55 The Coroner
14:40 Death In Paradise
15:35 Doctor Who
16:30 Father Brown
17:25 The Coroner
18:10 Holby City
19:05 Death In Paradise
20:00 Line Of Duty
21:00 In The Dark
22:00 DCI Banks
22:50 DCI Banks
23:40 Holby City

crime & investigation network

00:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
01:00 It Takes A Killer
01:30 It Takes A Killer
02:00 Homicide Hunter
03:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos
04:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
05:00 It Takes A Killer
05:30 It Takes A Killer
06:00 It Takes A Killer
06:30 It Takes A Killer
07:00 It Takes A Killer
07:30 It Takes A Killer
08:00 The First 48
09:00 Homicide Hunter
10:00 Diabolical Women
11:00 Diabolical Women
12:00 Diabolical Women
13:00 Holloway: Women Behind Bars
14:00 The First 48
15:00 Cold Case Files
16:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
17:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
18:00 It Takes A Killer
18:30 It Takes A Killer
19:00 The First 48
20:00 Homicide Hunter
21:00 Cold Case Files
22:00 When Life Means Life
23:00 Evil Up Close

COMEDY CENTRAL

00:05 Live At The Apollo
00:55 Dara O Briain: This Is The Show
01:46 Lip Sync Battle 'Shorties'
02:35 Important Things With Demitri Martin
03:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
03:25 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
04:15 Lip Sync Battle
04:40 Ridiculousness
05:05 Disaster Date
05:30 Catch A Contractor
06:20 Sweat Inc.
07:15 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
08:05 Disaster Date
08:30 Impractical Jokers
08:55 Ridiculousness
09:20 Key And Peele
09:45 Lip Sync Battle
10:10 Ridiculousness
10:35 Disaster Date
11:00 Framework
11:50 Disaster Date
12:15 Catch A Contractor
13:05 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
13:55 Life Or Debt
14:45 Lip Sync Battle
15:10 Key And Peele
15:35 Ridiculousness
16:00 Impractical Jokers
16:30 Disaster Date
16:55 Disaster Date
17:25 Ridiculousness
17:50 Ridiculousness Arabia
18:15 Impractical Jokers
18:39 The Jim Gaffigan Show
19:03 Key And Peele
19:27 Key And Peele
19:50 Disaster Date
20:13 I Live With Models
20:37 Lip Sync Battle
21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
21:30 Inside Amy Schumer
22:00 Inside Amy Schumer
22:25 Broad City
22:50 Broad City
23:15 Idiotsitter
23:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah Colors

Discovery Family

00:30 Lost & Found With Mike & Jesse
01:20 Outrageous Acts Of Psych
01:45 Outrageous Acts Of Psych
02:10 The Carbonaro Effect
02:35 The Carbonaro Effect
03:00 Finding Bigfoot
03:50 Guinness World Records Smashed UK
04:40 How It's Made
05:05 How It's Made
05:30 Lost & Found With Mike & Jesse
06:20 Mythbusters
07:00 Kenny The Shark
07:25 Adventure 8: Zoo Games
07:50 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
08:40 How It's Made
09:05 How It's Made
09:30 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
10:20 Mythbusters
11:10 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
12:00 Finding Bigfoot
12:50 How It's Made
13:15 How It's Made
13:40 Lost & Found With Mike & Jesse
14:30 Kenny The Shark
14:55 Adventure 8: Zoo Games
15:20 Guinness World Records Smashed UK
16:10 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
17:00 Driving Me Crazy
17:50 Now That's Funny
18:40 Mythbusters
19:30 How It's Made
19:55 How It's Made
20:20 Guinness World Records Smashed UK
21:10 Driving Me Crazy
22:00 World's Funniest
22:50 Finding Bigfoot
23:40 Guinness World Records Smashed UK

ID X

00:30 Vanity Fair Confidential
01:20 Scene Of The Crime With Tony Harris
02:10 Is O.J. Innocent? The Missing Evidence
03:00 Murder Comes To Town
03:48 California Investigator
04:13 California Investigator
04:36 California Investigator
05:01 California Investigator
05:24 California Investigator
05:49 California Investigator
06:12 California Investigator
06:37 California Investigator
07:00 Blood Relatives
07:50 Blood Relatives
08:40 Blood Relatives
09:30 Blood Relatives
10:20 The Locator
10:45 The Locator
11:10 Blood Relatives
12:00 California Investigator
12:25 California Investigator
12:50 California Investigator
13:15 California Investigator
13:40 California Investigator
14:05 California Investigator
14:30 California Investigator
14:55 California Investigator
15:20 The Locator
15:45 The Locator
16:10 Behind Closed Doors: Shocking Secrets
17:00 Beauty Queen Murders
17:50 Beauty Queen Murders
18:40 Beauty Queen Murders
19:30 Beauty Queen Murders
20:20 On The Case With Paula Zahn
21:10 Women In Prison
22:00 Is O.J. Innocent? The Missing Evidence
22:50 Grave Secrets
23:40 Evil Lives Here

Disney Channel HD

00:00 Hank Zipzer
00:25 Alex & Co.
00:45 The Hive
00:50 Evermoor Chronicles
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:40 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
02:05 Binny And The Ghost
02:30 Binny And The Ghost
02:55 Hank Zipzer
03:15 The Hive
03:20 Hank Zipzer
03:45 Alex & Co.
04:10 Alex & Co.
04:35 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
05:00 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
05:25 Binny And The Ghost
05:45 The Hive
05:50 The 7D
06:00 Jessie
06:25 Jessie
06:50 Tsum Tsum Shorts
06:55 Lolirock
07:20 Elena Of Avalor
07:45 Bunk'd
08:10 Stuck In The Middle
08:35 Bizaardvark
09:00 Austin & Ally
09:25 Austin & Ally
09:50 Good Luck Charlie
10:15 Good Luck Charlie
10:40 Alex & Co.
11:05 Lolirock
11:30 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
11:55 Disney Mickey Mouse
12:00 Welcome To The Ronks
12:15 Hank Zipzer
12:40 Dog With A Blog
13:05 Star Darlings
13:10 Good Luck Charlie
13:35 Austin & Ally
14:00 Jessie
14:25 Lolirock
14:50 The Zhuzhus
15:15 Whisker Haven Tales With The Palace Pets
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 Girl Meets World
17:05 Stuck In The Middle
17:30 Bunk'd
17:55 Bizaardvark
18:20 Disney Mickey Mouse
18:25 Alex & Co.
18:50 Best Friends Whenever
19:15 Sunny Bunnies
19:20 Liv And Maddie
19:45 Mako Mermaids
20:10 Jessie
20:35 Cracke
20:40 Bizaardvark
21:05 Austin & Ally
21:30 Stuck In The Middle
21:55 Tsum Tsum Shorts
22:00 Bunk'd
22:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
22:50 Lolirock
23:10 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:35 Binny And The Ghost

Disney Junior

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 Sofia The First
07:25 Goldie & Bear
07:50 The Lion Guard
08:15 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
08:40 Doc McStuffins
09:05 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
09:30 PJ Masks
09:45 Miles From Tomorrow
10:10 Little Mermaid
10:35 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
11:00 PJ Masks
11:25 Goldie & Bear
11:50 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
12:15 Sofia The First
12:40 The Lion Guard
13:10 Doc McStuffins
13:35 PJ Masks
14:00 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
14:30 The Lion Guard
14:55 Unbungalievable
15:00 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
15:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
16:00 Sofia The First
16:25 Goldie & Bear
16:50 Doc McStuffins
17:15 The Lion Guard
17:40 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
18:05 PJ Masks
18:35 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
19:05 Sofia The First
19:35 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
20:05 The Lion Guard
20:35 Lion King 2: Simba's Pride
22:00 Little Mermaid
22:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
22:55 PJ Masks
23:20 Henry Hugglemonster
23:35 The Hive
23:45 Loopdidoo

Discovery Channel HD

00:20 Wheeler Dealers
01:05 Cooper's Treasure: The Hunt For A Secret Fortune
01:50 Deadliest Catch
02:35 The Dark Side Of The Sun
03:20 Fast N' Loud
04:05 Running Wild With Bear Grylls
04:50 Gold Rush
05:35 How Do They Do It?
06:00 Gold Divers
06:45 Wheeler Dealers
07:30 Fast N' Loud
08:15 Running Wild With Bear Grylls
09:00 Storage Hunters
09:25 How Do They Do It?
09:47 How Do They Do It?
10:10 Cooper's Treasure: The Hunt For A Secret Fortune
10:55 Deadliest Catch
11:40 The Dark Side Of The Sun
12:25 How Do They Do It?
12:47 Storage Hunters
13:10 Gold Rush
13:55 Running Wild With Bear Grylls
14:40 Gold Divers
15:25 Fast N' Loud
16:10 Wheeler Dealers
17:00 How Do They Do It?
17:25 How Do They Do It?
17:50 Storage Hunters
18:20 Storage Hunters
18:50 Running Wild With Bear Grylls
19:40 How Do They Do It?
20:10 How Do They Do It?
20:35 How Do They Do It?
21:00 Kings Of The Wild
21:50 Treasure Quest: Snake Island
22:40 Legend Of Croc Gold
23:30 Fast N' Loud

Disney XD

06:00 Milo Murphy's Law
06:25 Supa Strikas
06:50 Mech-X4
07:15 Right Now Kapow
07:40 Gravity Falls
08:05 Marvel's Ant-Man
08:10 K.C. Undercover
08:35 Milo Murphy's Law
09:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
09:25 Supa Strikas
09:50 Supa Strikas
10:20 Kickin' It
10:45 Kickin' It
11:10 Mighty Med
11:35 Mighty Med
12:00 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
12:30 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
12:55 K.C. Undercover
13:20 K.C. Undercover
13:45 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
14:15 Future-Worm!
14:40 Kirby Buckets
15:05 Lab Rats
15:30 Walk The Prank
15:55 Right Now Kapow
16:25 K.C. Undercover
16:50 Kirby Buckets
17:15 Mech-X4
17:40 Gravity Falls
18:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
18:10 Milo Murphy's Law
18:35 Disney11
19:00 Disney11
19:25 K.C. Undercover
19:50 Marvel's Ant-Man
19:55 Milo Murphy's Law
20:20 Mech-X4
20:45 Kirby Buckets
21:10 Walk The Prank
21:35 Marvel's Ant-Man
21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
21:45 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
22:10 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
22:35 Phineas And Ferb
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA

E HD

00:00 Rob & Chyna
01:00 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
01:55 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
02:50 Celebrity Style Story
03:20 Celebrity Style Story
03:50 So Cosmo
04:40 So Cosmo
05:30 Celebrity Style Story
06:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
07:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
08:00 E! News: Daily Pop
08:55 Rob & Chyna
11:45 Celebrity Style Story
12:15 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
15:00 E! News: Daily Pop
15:55 Second Wives Club
18:30 Celebrity Style Story
19:00 E! News
20:00 Botched
21:00 Botched
22:00 Famously Single
23:00 WAGs Miami
23:55 WAGs Miami

food network

00:00 Restaurant: Impossible
01:00 Mystery Diners
01:30 Mystery Diners
02:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
02:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
03:00 Man Fire Food
03:30 Man Fire Food
04:00 Chopped
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
06:00 Barefoot Contessa
06:30 Barefoot Contessa
07:00 The Kitchen
08:00 The Pioneer Woman
08:30 The Pioneer Woman
09:00 Siba's Table
09:30 Siba's Table
10:00 The Pioneer Woman
10:30 The Pioneer Woman
11:00 The Kitchen
12:00 The Pioneer Woman
12:30 The Pioneer Woman
13:00 Siba's Table
13:30 Siba's Table
14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
15:00 Chopped
16:00 The Kitchen
17:00 The Pioneer Woman
17:30 The Pioneer Woman
18:00 Chopped
19:00 Chopped Junior
20:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
20:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
21:00 Man Fire Food
21:30 Man Fire Food
22:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
22:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
23:00 Chopped

itv CHOICE

00:10 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
01:00 Emmerdale
01:30 Coronation Street
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
03:25 Broadchurch
04:20 Victoria
05:15 Seven Days With...
06:10 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
07:05 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
08:00 Broadchurch
09:00 Victoria
10:00 Seven Days With...
10:55 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
11:50 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
12:45 Emmerdale
13:15 Coronation Street
13:45 Coronation Street
14:10 Don't Tell The Bride
15:10 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
16:00 Together
16:30 Together
17:00 Doc Martin
17:50 Seven Days With...
18:45 Emmerdale
19:15 Coronation Street
19:45 Coronation Street
20:10 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
21:00 Together
21:30 Together
22:00 Doc Martin
22:50 Emmerdale
23:15 Coronation Street
23:35 Coronation Street

H2 HD

00:00 Ancient Discoveries
01:00 Engineering An Empire
02:00 Brad Meltzer's Decoded
02:50 Ancient Aliens
03:40 Cities Of The Underworld
04:30 Million Dollar Genius
05:20 Ancient Discoveries
06:10 The Universe
07:00 Engineering An Empire
08:00 Brad Meltzer's Decoded
09:00 Ancient Aliens
10:00 Cities Of The Underworld
11:00 The Universe
12:00 Ancient Discoveries
13:00 Engineering An Empire
14:00 Brad Meltzer's Decoded
15:00 Ancient Aliens
16:00 Cities Of The Underworld
17:00 The Universe
18:00 Ancient Discoveries
19:00 Engineering An Empire
20:00 Brad Meltzer's Decoded
21:00 Ancient Aliens
22:00 Hangar 1: The UFO Files
23:00 Million Dollar Genius

History HD

00:20 Britain's Bloody Crown: War Of The Roses
01:10 The Warfighters
02:00 Officers And Gentlemen
02:50 Storage Wars Miami
03:15 American Pickers
04:05 Pawn Stars
04:30 Pawn Stars
05:00 Mountain Men
06:00 Leepu And Pitbull
06:50 Duck Dynasty
07:15 Duck Dynasty
07:40 Counting Cars: Best Of
08:05 Counting Cars: Best Of
08:30 Pawn Stars
08:55 Pawn Stars
09:20 Storage Wars
09:45 Storage Wars
10:10 American Pickers
11:00 Time Team
11:50 Duck Dynasty
12:15 Duck Dynasty
12:40 Counting Cars: Best Of
13:05 Counting Cars: Best Of
13:30 Ice Road Truckers
14:20 Mountain Men
15:10 Leepu And Pitbull
16:00 Storage Wars
16:25 Storage Wars
16:50 Pawn Stars
17:15 Pawn Stars
17:40 Gold Hunters: Legend Of The Superstition...
18:30 Officers And Gentlemen
19:20 Mountain Men
20:10 American Pickers
21:00 Mountain Men - Closest Calls
21:50 Alone: Lost And Found
22:40 Swamp People
23:30 American Pickers

NAT GEO people HD

00:15 Delinquent Gourmet
00:45 Places We Go
01:10 Great Escapes
01:40 Island Hunter
02:35 Wineroads
03:00 Wineroads
03:30 Fish Of The Day
03:55 Maximum Foodie
04:25 David Rocco's Dolce India
04:50 Places We Go
05:20 Places We Go
05:45 Eat Street
06:15 Eat Street
06:40 Great Escapes
07:10 Island Hunter
08:05 Wineroads
08:30 Wineroads
09:00 Fish Of The Day
09:25 Maximum Foodie
09:55 David Rocco's Dolce India
10:20 Places We Go
10:50 Places We Go
11:15 Eat Street
11:45 Eat Street
12:10 Great Escapes
12:40 Island Hunter
13:35 Wineroads
14:00 Wineroads
14:30 Fish Of The Day
14:55 Lee Chan's World Food Tour
15:25 David Rocco's Dolce India
15:50 Places We Go
16:20 Places We Go
16:45 Eat Street
17:15 Eat Street
17:40 Great Escapes
18:10 Andy And Ben Eat Australia
18:35 Andy And Ben Eat Australia
19:05 David Rocco's Dolce India
19:30 Places We Go
20:00 Places We Go
20:30 Eat Street
21:00 Eat Street
21:30 Great Escapes
22:00 Andy And Ben Eat Australia
22:25 Andy And Ben Eat Australia
22:55 Island Hunter
23:50 Wineroads

National Geographic Channel HD

00:10 Airport Security: Colombia
01:00 Highway Thru Hell
02:00 Big Fix Alaska
03:00 Prison Women Texas Hold Em'
04:00 Airport Security: Colombia
05:00 4 Babies A Second
06:00 Brain Games
06:30 Brain Games
07:00 Explorer
08:00 Surgery Ship
09:00 4 Babies A Second
10:00 Continent 7: Antarctica
11:00 Wicked Tuna
12:00 Air Crash Investigation
13:00 Surgery Ship
14:00 Brain Games
14:30 Brain Games
15:00 Explorer
16:00 Continent 7: Antarctica
17:00 Wicked Tuna
18:00 Air Crash Investigation
19:00 Explorer
20:00 Continent 7: Antarctica
20:50 Wicked Tuna
21:40 Air Crash Investigation
22:30 Explorer
23:20 Brain Games
23:45 Brain Games

NAT GEO WILD HD

00:20 Crocodile King
01:10 Snakes In The City
02:00 The Jungle King Compilation
02:50 Monster Fish
03:45 World's Deadliest
04:40 Strangest Bird Alive
05:35 The Jungle King Compilation
06:30 Monster Fish
07:25 World's Deadliest
08:20 Strangest Bird Alive
09:15 Bug Attack
10:10 A Wild Dog's Tale
11:05 Spine Chillers: Scorpions
12:00 Shark Men
12:55 Bite, Sting, Kill
13:50 Monster Fish
14:45 Tiger Shark Terror
15:40 Ultimate Animal Countdown
16:35 Squid vs. Whale
17:30 Wild 24
18:25 Tiger Shark Terror
19:20 Bite, Sting, Kill
20:10 Ultimate Animal Countdown
21:00 Squid vs. Whale
21:50 Wild 24
22:40 Tiger Shark Terror
23:30 Shark Men

nick HD

00:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
00:36 Rabbids Invasion
01:00 Rabbids Invasion
01:24 Sanjay And Craig
01:48 Sanjay And Craig
02:12 Winx Club
02:36 Winx Club
03:00 Harvey Beaks
03:24 Harvey Beaks
03:48 The Loud House
04:12 The Loud House
04:36 Breadwinners
05:00 Breadwinners
05:24 Get Blake
05:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
06:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
07:00 The Loud House
07:24 Rabbids Invasion
07:48 Get Blake
08:12 Harvey Beaks
08:36 Sanjay And Craig
09:00 Rank The Prank
09:24 Henry Danger
09:48 100 Things To Do Before High School
10:12 Game Shakers
10:36 Regal Academy
11:00 Winx Club
11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
11:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
12:12 The Loud House
12:36 Breadwinners
13:00 School Of Rock
13:24 Henry Danger
13:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
14:12 Henry Danger
14:36 The Thundermans
15:00 100 Things To Do Before High School
15:24 Rabbids Invasion
15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
16:36 The Loud House
17:00 Regal Academy
17:24 Winx Club
17:48 Hunter Street
18:12 Henry Danger
18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
19:00 School Of Rock
19:24 Game Shakers
19:48 The Thundermans
20:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
21:00 The Loud House
21:24 Sanjay And Craig
21:48 Rabbids Invasion
22:12 Breadwinners
22:36 Harvey Beaks
23:00 SpongeBob SquarePants
23:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
23:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

nick jr.

00:02 Max & Ruby
00:24 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
00:35 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
00:45 The Day Henry Met
00:50 The Day Henry Met
00:56 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:19 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:41 Zack & Quack
02:02 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
03:45 Max & Ruby
04:06 Nella The Princess Knight
04:30 Shimmer And Shine
04:53 Dora And Friends
05:15 Zack & Quack
05:28 The Day Henry Met
05:33 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 Bubble Guppies
07:45 Blaze And The Monster Machines
08:07 Paw Patrol
08:30 Shimmer And Shine
08:53 Nella The Princess Knight
09:15 The Day Henry Met
09:20 Paw Patrol
09:43 Rusty Rivets
09:56 Bubble Guppies
10:19 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
10:41 Zack & Quack
10:53 Team Umizoomi
11:16 Shimmer And Shine
11:38 Shimmer And Shine
12:01 Max & Ruby
12:24 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
12:35 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
12:45 The Day Henry Met
12:50 The Day Henry Met
12:56 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
15:45 Max & Ruby
16:07 Nella The Princess Knight
16:30 Shimmer And Shine
16:53 Dora And Friends
17:16 Zack & Quack
17:28 The Day Henry Met
17:33 The Day Henry Met
17:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
18:00 Rusty Rivets
18:12 Paw Patrol
18:37 Dora The Explorer
19:00 Zack & Quack
19:22 Bubble Guppies
19:45 Blaze And The Monster Machines
20:07 Paw Patrol
20:30 Shimmer And Shine
20:53 Nella The Princess Knight
21:15 The Day Henry Met
21:21 Paw Patrol
21:44 Rusty Rivets
21:56 Bubble Guppies
22:19 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
22:42 Zack & Quack
22:53 Team Umizoomi
23:17 Shimmer And Shine
23:39 Shimmer And Shine

OSN MOVIES HD FAMILY

00:40 Race To Witch Mountain
02:20 Hocus Pocus
04:00 Nancy Drew
05:40 Chicken Little
07:05 Race To Witch Mountain
08:45 Hocus Pocus
10:25 A Bug's Life
12:05 Nancy Drew
13:45 Oliver & Company
15:00 The Rescuers
16:25 Herbie Fully Loaded
18:15 Sky High
20:05 Inspector Gadget
21:35 The Rescuers
23:00 Oliver & Company

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

01:30 We're No Angels
03:25 Father Of The Bride
05:20 Father Of The Bride Part II
07:15 Don Verdean
09:00 Father Of The Bride
10:55 Father Of The Bride Part II
12:50 Don Verdean
14:35 Hard Promises
16:25 Miss You Already
18:15 Made In America
20:15 K-9
22:00 The Ladies Man
23:25 Joshy

OSN MOVIES FESTIVAL

01:50 Neil Young: Heart Of Gold
03:35 The Inevitable Defeat Of Mister & Pete
05:25 Words And Pictures
07:25 Neil Young: Heart Of Gold
09:15 My Sister
11:15 A Perfect Day
13:05 Words And Pictures
15:05 A Birder's Guide To Everything
16:35 Man In The Moon
18:20 Before I Disappear
20:00 The Lobster
22:00 Barry Lyndon

OSN MOVIES HD KIDS

00:40 Operation Arctic
02:15 Cher Ami
03:50 Yugo & Lala 2
05:10 Two Buddies And A Badger
06:30 Marco Macaco
07:50 Mamma Moo And Crow
09:10 Space Dogs 2: Adventure To The Moon
10:30 Funny Little Cars
11:35 Operation Arctic
13:10 Cher Ami
14:45 Oops Noah Is Gone
16:15 Space Dogs 2: Adventure To The Moon
17:35 Bunny Tales
18:50 Get Squirrely
20:20 Oops Noah Is Gone
21:50 Mamma Moo And Crow
23:10 Funny Little Cars

OSN MOVIES HD

00:15 V/H/S Viral
01:40 The Horse Whisperer
04:40 Gridiron Gang
06:55 From Rocky To Creed The Legacy Continues
07:55 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
09:45 The Intern
11:50 The War
13:55 The Ladykillers
15:45 Last Knights
17:40 Rocky II
19:40 Mystic River
22:00 Wanted
23:50 Pushing Tin

Discovery Science

00:30 How Do They Do It?
00:55 Food Factory
01:20 Future Firepower
02:10 Sci-Trek
03:00 Prototype This
03:48 Mythbusters
04:36 How Do They Do It?
05:00 Food Factory
05:24 Future Firepower
06:12 Sci-Trek
07:00 How Do They Do It?
07:26 Prototype This
08:14 Mythbusters
09:02 Sci-Trek
09:50 How Do They Do It?
10:14 Food Factory
10:38 Future Firepower
11:26 Prototype This
12:14 Mythbusters
13:02 How Do They Do It?
13:26 Food Factory
13:50 Sci-Trek
14:38 Prototype This
15:26 Future Firepower
16:14 Mythbusters
17:02 Sci-Trek
17:50 Prototype This
18:40 Mythbusters
19:30 Secrets Of The Underground
20:20 How Do They Do It?
20:45 Food Factory
21:10 Sci-Trek
22:00 Secrets Of The Underground
22:50 Prototype This
23:40 Mythbusters

Star Movies HD

00:15 Cassandra's Dream
02:00 Reclaim
03:45 The Upside Of Anger
05:45 Gosford Park
08:00 That's What I Am
09:45 The Last Kiss
11:20 The One I Love
12:55 The Painted Veil
15:00 Cassandra's Dream
16:45 The First Time
18:15 Reclaim
20:00 Laws Of Attraction
21:30 The Moment
23:00 The Woman In Black

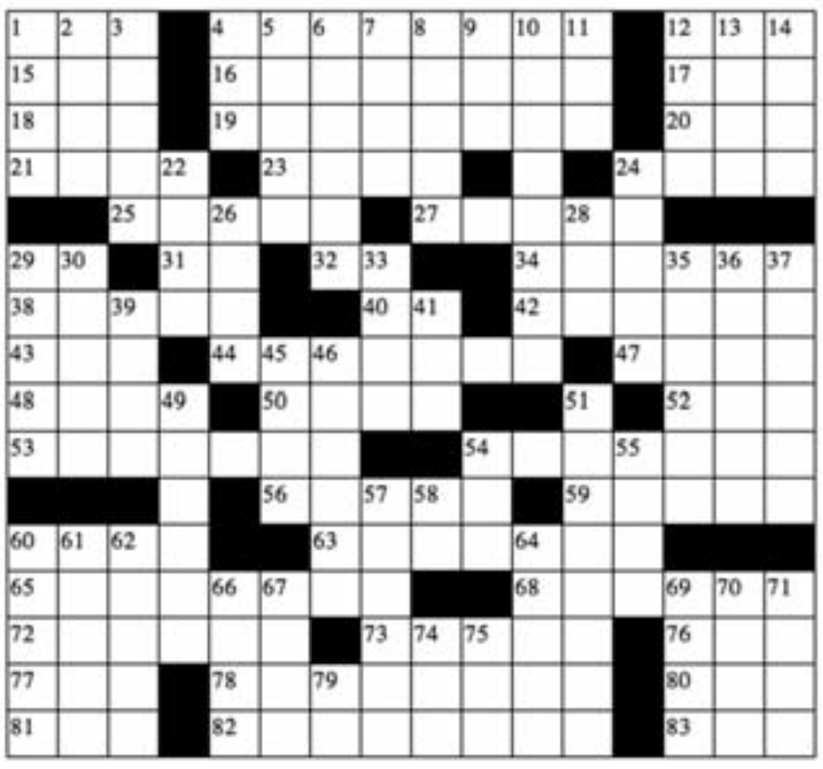
Star World HD

00:00 Project Runway
02:00 The Listener
05:00 Making Mr. Right
06:00 Grey's Anatomy
08:00 Project Runway
10:00 The Listener
13:00 Making Mr. Right
14:00 Grey's Anatomy
16:00 Project Runway
18:00 Gallery Girls
21:00 Making Mr. Right
22:00 Grey's Anatomy

TLC HD

00:20 7 Little Johnstons
01:05 Fat Chance
01:50 Return To Amish
02:35 Say Yes To The Dress: Canada
02:57 Say Yes To The Dress: Canada
03:20 Little People, Big World
04:05 Toddlers & Tiaras
04:50 Your Style In His Hands
05:35 Say Yes To The Dress
06:00 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
06:45 Say Yes To The Dress: Canada
07:07 Say Yes To The Dress: Canada
07:30 Say Yes To The Dress UK
07:52 Say Yes To The Dress UK
08:15 Little People, Big World
09:00 Cake Boss
09:25 Toddlers & Tiaras
10:10 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
10:55 Outdaughtered: Busby Quints
11:40 Say Yes To The Dress: Canada
12:02 Say Yes To The Dress: Canada
12:25 Oprah: Where Are They Now?
13:10 7 Little Johnstons
13:55 Toddlers & Tiaras
14:40 Little People, Big World
15:25 Outdaughtered: Busby Quints
16:10 Love, Lust Or Run
16:35 Cake Boss

CROSSWORD 1680



ACROSS

1. The federal agency that insures residential mortgages.
4. (India) Flat pancake-like bread cooked on a griddle.
12. Inquire about.
15. The basic unit of money in Albania.
16. 5-story-tall dinosaur.
17. Aircraft landing in bad weather in which the pilot is talked down by ground control using precision approach radar.
18. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
19. Engage in plotting or enter into a conspiracy, swear together.
20. The most common computer memory which can be used by programs to perform necessary tasks while the computer is on.
21. A very young child (birth to 1 year) who has not yet begun to walk or talk.
23. (nontechnical usage) A tiny piece of anything.
25. Strike with disgust or revulsion.
27. City in Sudan.
29. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali metal group.
31. The branch of engineering science that studies the uses of electricity and the equipment for power generation and distribution and the control of machines and communication.
32. An official prosecutor for a judicial district.
34. A sweet liquid secretion that is attractive to pollinators.
38. United States designer noted for an innovative series of chairs (1907-1978).
40. A small pellet fired from an air rifle or BB gun.
42. A card game similar to ecarte.
43. The corporate executive responsible for the operations of the firm.
44. A city in western California on San Francisco Bay opposite San Francisco.
47. Using speech rather than writing.
48. The sixth month of the civil year.
50. (Welsh) Underworld god.
52. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
53. Fudge made with brown sugar and butter and milk and nuts.
56. The capital and largest city of Ghana with a deep-water port.
59. A slipper that has no fitting around the heel.
60. The capital of Western Samoa.
63. German biologist and philosopher.
65. Of or relating to Galileo or his works.
68. Put up with something or somebody unpleasant.
72. Situated at an apex.
73. Tropical American trees with palmately compound leaves and showy bell-shaped flowers.
76. An anxiety disorder characterized by chronic free-floating anxiety and such symptoms as tension or sweating or trembling of light-headedness or irritability etc that has lasted for more than six months.
77. An enzyme that catalyzes the oxidation of many body compounds (e.g., epinephrine and norepinephrine and serotonin).
78. Term used in some classifications as nearly equivalent to the order Coraciiformes.
80. Either of two folds of skin that can be moved to cover or open the eye.
81. Slender bristlelike appendage found on the bracts of grasses.
82. A river in northeastern Brazil that flows generally northward to the Atlantic Ocean.
83. An agency of the United Nations affiliated with the World Bank.

DOWN

1. Loose or flaccid body fat.
2. Goddess of the dead and queen of the underworld.
3. Jordan's port.
4. Counting the number of white and red blood cells and the number of platelets in 1 cubic millimeter of blood.
5. Leafless East Indian vine.
6. English poet and literary critic (1822-1888).
7. (prefix) Coming after.
8. Made of wood of the aspen tree n.
9. Of or relating to or characteristic of Thailand of its people.
10. Wearing a turban.
11. A strong emotion.
12. A city in northern India.
13. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
14. God of love and erotic desire.
22. A fencing sword similar to a foil but with a heavier blade.
24. United States anarchist (born in Italy) who with Bartolomeo Vanzetti was convicted of murder and in spite of world-wide protest was executed (1891-1927).
26. The basic unit of money in Uruguay.
28. The basic unit of money in Romania.
30. English monk and scholar (672-735).
33. In a competent capable manner.
35. The state of being under the control of another person.
36. (of farmland) Capable of being farmed productively.
37. A race between teams.
39. An utterance expressing pain or disapproval.
41. A decree that prohibits something.
45. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
46. The basic unit of money in Zambia.
49. Relating to modern Greece or its inhabitants or its language n.
51. Genus of tropical American timber trees.
54. Resinlike substance secreted by certain lac insects.
55. A Scottish word.
57. A high-kicking dance of French origin performed by a female chorus line.
58. A rare heavy polyvalent metallic element that resembles manganese chemically and is used in some alloys.
61. Small tree native to the eastern United States having oblong leaves and fleshy fruit.
62. An ancient city in Asia Minor that was the site of the Trojan War.
64. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
66. An inhabitant of Lappland.
67. English essayist (1775-1834).
69. Large sweet juicy hybrid between tangerine and grapefruit having a thick wrinkled skin.
70. A sudden short attack.
71. Tropical starchy tuberous root.
74. A period marked by distinctive character or reckoned from a fixed point or event.
75. Being one more than two.
79. A hard brittle blue-white multivalent metallic element.

Yesterday's Solution

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

STAR TRACK

Aries (March 21-April 19)

Administrative ability comes easily this morning and you are able to help coordinate people and events. This may mean you are now head caterer or you have decided to be on an entertainment committee, etc. You are able to influence and guide others in matters of importance; this could mean a dance contest. You may seek guidance with regard to your own work from higher-ups. Do not be afraid to ask questions today. Others value you for your ability to make practical decisions, but there is no disgrace in learning more by asking questions. You may glean new techniques from your co-workers as well as those you might consider under you. A great person shows greatness by the way that person treats others. This afternoon you enjoy young people.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

A conversation around the water cooler has you interested in a subject you had not given much thought to before today. Library visits are usually enjoyable for you and you may make plans to stop by and pick up a book or two on your subject of interest. Work goes well but you look forward to the busy times coming up with your friends. Consideration could be given now to joining a theatrical group. This would help you experience several things at once and afford you the ability to take on new experiences and to enjoy many more people. You attract attention and seek intuitive and intelligent situations where you can use your education to make a positive difference. You might want to send off for a birth chart this year.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You are productive and work well with others. Your management abilities are in order. Your intuitive mind comes to your attention and you listen to your instincts. You are guided and motivated to enlarge your scope of understanding when it comes to enlarging your work experiences. There are plenty of co-worker friends that want to help you get ahead since they may appreciate your way of taking care of difficult work issues. You enjoy your job as well as the responsibility it entails. This is what will move you to the front of the line when it comes to promotions. Sometimes you can become sidetracked by meaningless matters, but today you seem to be tuned in to most of the situations around you. You spend time with close friends tonight.

Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You may find yourself acting impulsively and spontaneously. You could act first and think about what you have done later. Rushing in where others fear to tread seems to be the mode of this day. This is attention-getting behavior. You could provoke a response from your surroundings and from others. There is something essential that causes something else to happen-a reaction or response. It's about time someone took the initiative to set out a plan or make a suggestion-others have not dared to speak. You make great headway in the workplace for yourself and your co-workers. You want something more imaginative and less mundane. You could receive unexpected help or support from those around you, especially someone younger.

Leo (July 23-August 22)

You cherish personal freedom and may have the urge to go exploring during your lunch hour. You may come across a superb investment idea. Channel your energies in the direction of completing the uncompleted. You have a great desire to understand the motivations and actions of your friends or co-workers and will be motivated to help another through giving advice. You possess a penetrating mind that will attempt to sway others to more positive ways of thinking. Your analytical powers are superb and you will enjoy looking for new avenues of inner growth. This is a nice day that should just flow along very well. In particular, this afternoon, you will do well in activities that include children, young people and your home and surroundings.

Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You may spend a great deal of time designing and thinking about ways in which to beautify your surroundings. This may include work as well as home just now. Perhaps you could add a few plants around the office where you work-oxygen is a good thing. You could base many of your decisions on hunches. You are in touch with your own convictions and the beliefs of your friends. You accept others for who they truly are and can gain the confidence of most anyone. The power of attraction and desire for love is great this evening, but you should exercise caution before entering a new relationship just now. Also, you may be inclined to physical activities, like sports, especially with the opposite sex. Try working together in some fun activity.

Libra (September 23-October 22)

There is a tendency to be too strict with your performance in the workplace as well as on the home front. You often may feel that whatever does not contribute to security and other long-term goals is trivial. Your ambition is intensified. There is excitement today because of an opportunity to meet interesting people through unusual means. You accept change well and will be able to take some time to teach others. You have that special ability to change with the expectancy of positive end results. Your relationships with others, especially women, will be most harmonious at this time, particularly with a person that had some recent difficulties. This is a good time to effect subtle changes in your social life. Group travel is in the future.

Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You are very communicative today-not just a little curious. You enjoy talking, speaking or writing and can teach as well. Study, research and investigations of all kinds appeal to you. You are always searching for some kind of answer. Your mind is active and you could be testing and searching for limits. There is something essential that starts or causes something else to happen today. You are lightning fast when it comes to a business deal or business transaction. You seem to have direct insight into what is worthwhile in a situation. You have ways of cutting to the important parts of a situation. You seem to know what each customer; client or co-worker may want or need. You can make a career out of your keen organizational skills at this time.

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

This is a very important day with lots of action. You are very focused and attentive in all the appropriate places. Not to worry, you will see the positive results of your actions soon enough. You have lots of physical energy this afternoon and it would be a good time to involve yourself with some fun activity with young people. Being outdoors can be most stimulating at this time of year. This evening you may find your thoughts turn to self-improvement. You may search long and hard to find clever ways in which to improve on something you do or something you feel needs changing. Faith and your abilities will take you far. There is some entertainment coming to your town that you think your friends might enjoy and you hurry to spread the news.

Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

This is a day in which you will enjoy positive energy all around you. Conference meetings are upbeat and many things are accomplished. With all this going for you and the people around you, you may feel comfortable and right with the world. The next project worth considering just now is better advertising. This may mean you carry through with a business product promotion. Your ideas are traditional and can be quite successful. There is a passion for details, with the desire to do just the right thing this afternoon. You have a burning desire to have a place for everything and everything in its place. This can be hard on the digestive system if taken to extreme! Close relationships take on more emotional depth, now.

Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

A frustrating morning smoothes out quite nicely as you take control and direct events. This may mean that a co-worker is out for the day and someone is waiting for the co-worker's signature or directions. You do, however, have universal energies working in your favor now so that if you hold your thoughts before you speak, focus and harmony can be easily realized. You could be in the spotlight at work because of your accomplishments. A humble attitude will help you win friends and influence people. Any form of communication, including your vehicle, should get special attention today. Telephone conversations and computer transactions may be a bit slow for now. List making will help to keep you on-target all day long.

Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You are at your most practical when it comes to working with others. You develop a knack for organizing things and people, as a sense of ambition takes hold. Work and achieving your professional goals mean a lot to you now. Others enjoy hearing your viewpoint, especially when you take the time to explain the reason for your insights. Because you are so intelligent, it is difficult for you to be patient with others when they seem to be on a different page than you. You have the ability to inspire and lead others through your attitude and your actions. Surprises in a personal relationship may tax your ability to be gracious. Create as many peaceful distractions as possible-you will be ready to listen at the right time. Try to see from another perspective.

WORD SEARCH

Musical Instruments 2

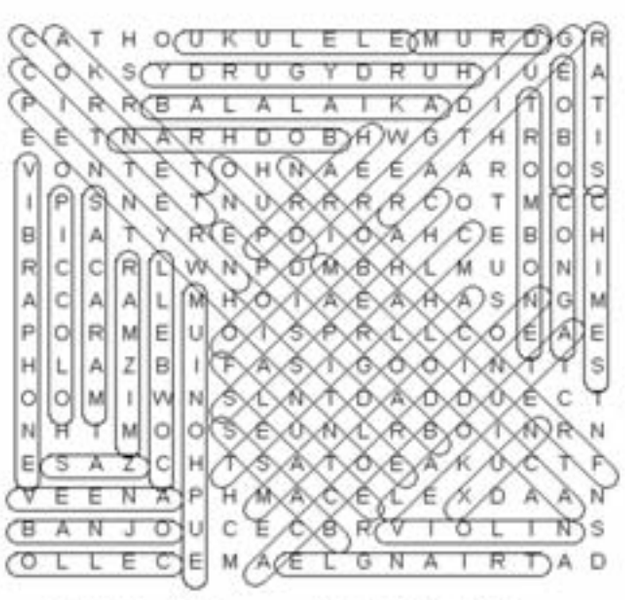
Find and circle all of the musical instruments that are hidden in the grid.
The remaining letters spell a secret message - a G. K. Chesterton quotation.

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

BASSOON	FIFE	MARIMBAS	SHOFAR
BONGOS	FLUGELHORN	MELODEON	SLIDE WHISTLE
BOUZOUKI	GONG	MOCENO	STRUMSTICK
BUGLE	HARMONICA	NEFER	TAMBOURINE
CASTANETS	HARMONIUM	OCARINA	TAMBURA
CONCERTINA	HUNTING HORN	PIANO	TIN WHISTLE
CONCH HORN	JEWS' HARP	REBEC	TRUMPET
CUMBUS	KEYBOARD	RECORDER	TUBA
CYMBAL	LUTE	SAROD	VIOLA
DULCIMER	MANDOLIN	SAXOPHONE	XYLOPHONE

Yesterday's Solution

Musical Instruments 1



ACCORDION	CONGA	HURDY-GURDY	SAZ
BAGPIPE	CORNET	LAOUTA	SITAR
BALALAIKA	COW BELL	MANDOLA	TARKA
BANJO	DIDGERIDOO	MARACAS	TRIANGLE
BASS	DRUM	MELODICA	TROMBONE
BODHRAN	EUPHONIUM	MIZMAR	UKULELE
CABASAS	FLUTE	OBOE	VEENA
CELLO	FRENCH HORN	OUD	VIBRAPHONE
CHIMES	GUITAR	PENNYWHISTLE	VIOLIN
CITTERN	HARP	PICCOLO	XUN
CLARINET			

Hidden sentence: THOSE WHO HEAR NOT THE MUSIC THINK THE DANCERS MAD

Daily SuDoku

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

Yesterday's Solution

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

CLASSIFIEDS

Kuwait Times
TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2017

KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (03/08/2017 TO 09/08/2017)

SHARQIA-1

DUNKIRK	1:00 PM
DUNKIRK	3:15 PM
BABY DRIVER	5:30 PM
FIRST KILL	7:50 PM
DUNKIRK	9:55 PM
FIRST KILL	12:15 AM

SHARQIA-2

ANTAR IBN IBN IBN IBN SHADAD -Arabic	12:15 PM
ANTAR IBN IBN IBN IBN SHADAD -Arabic	2:45 PM
DUNKIRK	5:15 PM
ANTAR IBN IBN IBN IBN SHADAD -Arabic	7:30 PM
ANTAR IBN IBN IBN IBN SHADAD -Arabic	10:00 PM
ANTAR IBN IBN IBN IBN SHADAD -Arabic	12:30 AM

SHARQIA-3

THE DARK TOWER	12:00 PM
WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	2:00 PM
JAB HARRY MET SEJAL -Hindi	2:00 PM
WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	5:00 PM
JAB HARRY MET SEJAL -Hindi	7:45 PM
THE DARK TOWER	10:45 PM
THE DARK TOWER	12:45 AM

MUHALAB-1

THE DARK TOWER	11:30 AM
DUNKIRK	1:30 PM
DUNKIRK	3:45 PM
JAB HARRY MET SEJAL -Hindi	6:00 PM
THE DARK TOWER	9:00 PM
THE DARK TOWER	11:00 PM
THE DARK TOWER	1:00 AM

MUHALAB-2

WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	12:15 PM
WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	3:00 PM
DUNKIRK	5:45 PM
FIRST KILL	8:00 PM
BABY DRIVER	10:15 PM
FIRST KILL	12:30 AM

MUHALAB-3

DESPICABLE ME 3	11:35 AM
ANTAR IBN IBN IBN IBN SHADAD -Arabic	1:30 PM
JAB HARRY MET SEJAL -Hindi	1:30 PM
ANTAR IBN IBN IBN IBN SHADAD -Arabic	4:30 PM
ANTAR IBN IBN IBN IBN SHADAD -Arabic	7:00 PM
ANTAR IBN IBN IBN IBN SHADAD -Arabic	9:30 PM
ANTAR IBN IBN IBN IBN SHADAD -Arabic	12:05 AM

FANAR-1

DESPICABLE ME 3	1:35 PM
FIRST KILL	1:00 PM
FIRST KILL	5:45 PM
ATOMIC BLONDE	8:00 PM
FIRST KILL	10:45 PM
FIRST KILL	1:00 AM

FANAR-2

DUNKIRK	11:45 AM
WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	2:00 PM
BABY DRIVER	4:45 PM
WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	7:00 PM
DUNKIRK	9:45 PM
BABY DRIVER	12:05 AM

FANAR-3

DESPICABLE ME 3	12:30 PM
MUBARAKAN -Hindi	2:30 PM
MUBARAKAN -Hindi	5:30 PM
JAB HARRY MET SEJAL -Hindi	11:30 AM
JAB HARRY MET SEJAL -Hindi	2:30 PM
JAB HARRY MET SEJAL -Hindi	5:30 PM
JAB HARRY MET SEJAL -Hindi	8:30 PM
JAB HARRY MET SEJAL -Hindi	11:30 PM

MARINA-1

WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	11:35 AM
WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	2:25 PM
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING	5:10 PM
WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	7:45 PM
ATOMIC BLONDE	10:30 PM
BABY DRIVER	12:45 AM

MARINA-2

ANTAR IBN IBN IBN IBN SHADAD -Arabic	11:30 AM
ANTAR IBN IBN IBN IBN SHADAD -Arabic	2:00 PM
ANTAR IBN IBN IBN IBN SHADAD -Arabic	4:30 PM
ANTAR IBN IBN IBN IBN SHADAD -Arabic	7:00 PM
ANTAR IBN IBN IBN IBN SHADAD -Arabic	9:30 PM
ANTAR IBN IBN IBN IBN SHADAD -Arabic	12:05 AM

MARINA-3

DESPICABLE ME 3	11:40 AM
DUNKIRK	1:30 PM
DESPICABLE ME 3	3:45 PM
DUNKIRK	5:45 PM
DUNKIRK	8:00 PM
THE DARK TOWER	10:15 PM
THE DARK TOWER	12:30 AM

AVENUES-1

FIRST KILL	11:30 AM
THE BIG SICK	1:35 PM
THE BIG SICK	4:00 PM
THE BIG SICK	6:30 PM
FIRST KILL	9:00 PM
FIRST KILL	11:05 PM
FIRST KILL	1:10 AM

AVENUES-2

DUNKIRK	12:30 PM
WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES -3D-4DX	2:45 PM
DUNKIRK -2D-4DX	5:30 PM
THE DARK TOWER-2D-4DX	7:45 PM
DUNKIRK -2D-4DX	9:45 PM
THE DARK TOWER-2D-4DX	12:05 AM

AVENUES-3

DUNKIRK	11:55 AM
WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	2:15 PM
WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	5:00 PM
DUNKIRK	8:15 PM
DUNKIRK	10:30 PM
DUNKIRK	12:45 AM

AVENUES-4

DUNKIRK	2:00 PM
THU+FRI	
JAB HARRY MET SEJAL -Hindi	1:15 PM
NO THU+FRI	
DUNKIRK	4:15 PM
JAB HARRY MET SEJAL -Hindi	6:35 PM
DUNKIRK	9:30 PM
JAB HARRY MET SEJAL -Hindi	11:45 PM

360º- 1

DUNKIRK	12:45 PM
DESPICABLE ME 3	1:35 PM
DUNKIRK	3:30 PM
DUNKIRK	8:00 PM
DUNKIRK	10:15 PM
Special Show "DUNKIRK"	6:00 PM
DUNKIRK	8:15 PM
DUNK	IRK 10:30 PM
DUNKIRK	12:40 AM

360º- 2

CARS 3	12:00 PM
DESPICABLE ME	2:15 PM
CARS 3	4:15 PM
DESPICABLE ME	6:40 PM
ATOMIC BLONDE	8:35 PM
ATOMIC BLONDE	10:45 PM
ATOMIC BLONDE	1:00 AM

360º- 3

WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	1:10 PM
TISBAH ALA KHAIR	1:40 PM
WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	4:05 PM
WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	7:00 PM
WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	9:50 PM
WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	12:50 AM

360º- 4

TISBAH ALA KHAIR	11:55 AM
BABY DRIVER	1:55 PM
TISBAH ALA KHAIR	4:20 PM
BABY DRIVER	6:25 PM
TISBAH ALA KHAIR	8:40 PM
BOYKA: UNDISPUTED	10:35 PM
BABY DRIVER	12:55 AM

Urgently Required for Project Manager for Civil ,Supervior,labors for cable works
Reputed General Trading Company Required Urgently for 132KV High voltage Underground Cable Laying and civil works project. Local recruitment only inside Kuwait. Selected candidates will get attractive salary

MEW Approved candidates will be preferred .
For the following positions

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4- Senior supervisor for cable pulling works
5- Cable winch operator
6- Experienced labors for cable pulling works

Send your complete Bio data & Experience certificates to
Email: ict_sec@aslaa.com or employmentlogistics@yahoo.com

Mobile :69968703 - Fax : 22252293

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Vempadapu Sarada (old name) D/o Suryanarayana, holder of Indian Passport G7938292 & Civil ID No. 274031602387, do hereby inform to the public about the change of my name as Sayera Banu Syed (new name). This is for the public information and all purposes concerned. **(C 5337)**

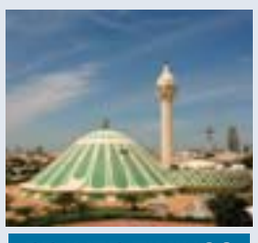
I, Khadar Ali Syed, S/o Sher Ali, holder of Indian Passport No. L1635464 & Civil ID No. 277062402568, do hereby inform to the Public about the corrected my name is Khadar Ali Syed (by mistake it was noted as Syed Khada Vali). The actual name is Khadar Ali Syed. This is for the public information and all purposes concerned. **(C 5338) 6-8-2017**

Habib Ali Rajabali S/O Rajabali Kadarali, holder of Indian Passport No. H8468522 & Civil ID No. 259080500277, has change my name from Habib Ali Rajabali to Habib Ali Pathan, hereinafter in all my dealings and documents I will be known by name of Habib Ali Pathan. **(C 5334) 3-8-2017**

SITUATION WANTED

A B.E. graduate in electronics & communications & further master's in embedded system & instrumentation. A year of experience in layout & design engineering at Linde AG, Germany. For any possible vacancy & detailed resume please contact: 94081644, shettyswathi07@gmail.com **(C 5336) 3-8-2017**

EMERGENCY 112



PRAYER TIMINGS

Fajr:	03:45
Shorook:	05:12
Duhr:	11:54
Asr:	15:29
Maghrib:	18:35
Isha:	19:59

Flight Schedule

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Tuesday 8/8/2017

Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
JAI	574	Mumbai	00:05
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10
SVA	502	Jeddah	00:20
SVA	514	Riyadh	00:25
KAC	786	Jeddah	00:30
JZR	267	Beirut	00:35
RJA	642	Amman	00:45
KAC	102	London	00:55
DLH	635	Doha	01:00
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50
KKK	6506	Istanbul	01:55
AXB	395	Kozhikode	02:00
KLM	446	Bahrain	02:05
JZR	553	Alexandria	02:10
QTR	1086	Doha	02:10
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15
KAC	418	Manila	02:50
THY	752	Istanbul	03:05
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05
MSR	606	Luxor	03:05
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10
RJA	644	Amman	03:10
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15
FDB	069	Dubai	03:15
KAC	382	Delhi	03:15
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:25
QTR	1076	Doha	03:45
KAC	544	Cairo	03:50
LMU	5510	Cairo	04:00
QTR	1090	Doha	04:05
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:15
UAE	873	Dubai	04:15
KAC	358	Kochi	04:50
FEG	937	Sohag	05:00
KAC	784	Jeddah	05:00
THY	1414	TZX	05:05
THY	6376	Istanbul	05:05
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10
KAC	414	Bangkok	05:20
THY	770	Istanbul	05:25
JZR	529	Asyut	05:35
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40
BAW	157	London	06:05
KAC	678	Dubai	06:25
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:35
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:40
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:55
JZR	1541	Cairo	07:10
JZR	503	Luxor	07:25
KAC	354	Bangalore	07:50
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00
QTR	1070	Doha	09:25
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40
IRA	675	Lar	09:40
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40
SAW	703	Damascus	10:45
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00
PAL	668	Manila	11:00
JZR	561	Sohag	11:10
MSC	403	Asyut	11:15
KAC	614	Bahrain	11:15
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:30
KAC	742	Dammam	11:45
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50
JZR	239	Amman	12:25
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45
THY	766	Istanbul	12:50
FEG	933	Sohag	12:55
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00
AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:10
SYR	341	Damascus	13:30
QTR	8511	Doha	13:45
KAC	692	Muscat	13:55
KAC	672	Dubai	13:55
QTR	1078	Doha	14:10
GFA	221	Bahrain	14:15
KAC	364	Colombo	14:15
FDB	059	Dubai	14:20
SVA	500	Jeddah	14:45
KAC	304	Mumbai	14:55
KAC	788	Jeddah	14:55
KNE	529	Jeddah	14:55
ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:05
OMA	645	Muscat	15:10
KAC	562	Amman	15:10
KAC	502	Beirut	15:25
KAC	412	Bangkok	15:30
ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35
UAE	857	Dubai	15:45
RJA	640	Amman	16:00
FDK	801	Damascus	16:00
MSR	575	Sharm el-Sheikh	16:10
QTR	1072	Doha	16:15
FDB	051	Dubai	16:15
JZR	535	Cairo	16:20
JZR	257	Beirut	16:20
JZR	125	Bahrain	16:25
KAC	118	New York	16:25
NIA	361	Alexandria	16:50
KAC	542	Cairo	17:05
SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15
GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30
JZR	777	Jeddah	17:35
JZR	177	Dubai	17:45
QTR	1080	Doha	18:10
JZR	483	Istanbul	18:30
MSR	620	Cairo	18:30
KAC	776	Riyadh	19:05
UAE	875	Dubai	19:05
GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05
FDB	063	Dubai	19:10
NIA	0161	Cairo	19:15
ABY	123	Sharjah	19:20
KAC	154	Istanbul	19:30
KAC	674	Dubai	19:40
KAC	178	Vienna	19:45
FDB	057	Dubai	19:50
KAC	620	Doha	20:05
OMA	647	Muscat	20:05
MEA	402	Beirut	20:15
DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:15
QTR	1088	Doha	20:40
KAC	166	Rome	20:55
ICV	675	Luxembourg	20:55
KAC	514	Tehran	20:55
KAC	564	Amman	21:00
KAC	172	Frankfurt	21:05
KAC	168	Paris	21:05
ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:10
KLM	445	Amsterdam	21:15
ALK	229	Colombo	21:15
UAE	859	Dubai	21:15
THY	764	Istanbul	21:30
GFA	219	Bahrain	21:50
KAC	792	Madinah	21:55
QTR	1082	Doha	22:05
ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:10
AIC	987	Chennai/Hyderabad	22:25
PIA	239	Sialkot	22:35
JZR	241	Amman	22:55
JZR	185	Dubai	23:00
JAI	574	Mumbai	23:00
MSC	405	Sohag	23:30
MSR	2614	Cairo	23:30
FDB	071	Dubai	23:35

Departure Flights on Tuesday 8/8/2017

Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
AIC	976	Goa/Chennai	00:05
RBG	556	Alexandria	00:05
BBC	144	Dhaka	00:10
JZR	1540	Cairo	00:20
MSR	2615	Cairo	00:30
MSC	406	Sohag	00:30
FDB	072	Dubai	00:30
JZR	502	Luxor	01:15
SVA	503	Jeddah	01:20
JAI	573	Mumbai	01:25
SVA	515	Riyadh	01:25
THY	773	Istanbul	01:40
KAC	677	Dubai	01:45
KAC	363	Colombo	01:55
DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:00
PGT	859	Istanbul	02:35
THY	765	Istanbul	02:50
KKK	6505	Istanbul	02:55
AXB	396	Kozhikode	02:55
ETH	621	Addis Ababa	03:05
UAE	854	Dubai	03:30
KLM	446	Amsterdam	03:30
RJA	645	Amman	03:55
THY	753	Istanbul	04:00
MSR	607	Luxor	04:05
OMA	644	Muscat	04:05
QTR	1087	Doha	04:10
ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10
MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
KAC	417	Manila	04:20
PGT	861	Istanbul	04:25
JZR	560	Sohag	04:45
LMU	5511	Cairo	05:00
QTR	1091	Doha	05:05
QTR	1077	Doha	05:35
KAC	303	Mumbai	05:50
FEG	934	Sohag	05:55
THY	1465	Istanbul	06:00
UAE	874	Dubai	06:15
RJA	643	Amman	06:25
THY	771	Istanbul	06:25
GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
JZR	238	Amman	07:00
FDB	070	Dubai	07:05
THY	6376	Dubai/Istanbul	07:05
JZR	164	Dubai	07:15
KAC	167	Paris	07:15
WAN	805	Sarajevo	07:50
KAC	501	Beirut	07:50
KAC	171	Frankfurt	07:50
KAC	613	Bahrain	07:55
BAW	156	London	08:20
KAC	177	Vienna	08:25
FDB	054	Dubai	08:30
KAC	741	Dammam	08:30
KAC	691	Muscat	08:30
JZR	256	Beirut	09:00
KAC	671	Dubai	09:15
KAC	787	Jeddah	09:15
KAC	117	New York	09:15
KAC	165	Rome	09:20
JZR	534	Cairo	09:30
KAC	561	Amman	09:30
ABY	126	Sharjah	09:40
JZR	482	Istanbul	09:40
KAC	101	London	09:45
UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:00
KAC	541	Cairo	10:00
KAC	153	Istanbul	10:30
QTR	1071	Doha	10:35
FDB	056	Dubai	10:35
IRA	674	Lar	10:40
SVA	513	Riyadh	11:00
GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35
SAW	704	Damascus	11:45
MEA	405	Beirut	11:55
JZR	776	Jeddah	12:00
QTR	1075	Doha	12:10
RBG	554	Alexandria	12:10
MSC	404	Asyut	12:15
PAL	669	Manila	13:10
JZR	176	Dubai	13:10
JZR	124	Bahrain	13:30
THY	767	Istanbul	13:45
FEG	938	Sohag	13:55
MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
AXB	394	Kozhikode	14:10
UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
SYR	342	Damascus	14:30
GFA	222	Bahrain	15:00
KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
FDB	060	Dubai	15:05
QTR	8512	Doha	15:15
QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
KAC	775	Riyadh	15:30
KAC	563	Amman	15:40
SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
KAC	619	Doha	16:00
OMA	646	Muscat	16:10
ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
KAC	513	Tehran	16:30
MSR	576	Sharm el-Sheikh	16:50
FDK	802	Damascus	16:55
RJA	641	Amman	16:55
FDB	052	Dubai	17:05
KAC	791	Madinah	17:10
JZR	266	Beirut	17:15
QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
JZR	240	Amman	17:30
KAC	361	Colombo	17:35
UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
KAC	357	Kochi	17:40
NIA	362	Alexandria	17:50
KAC	381	Delhi	17:50
KAC	331	Trivandrum	17:55
KAC	283	Dhaka	18:00
JZR	512	Sharm el-Sheikh	18:00
KAC	343	Chennai	18:00
SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
JZR	184	Dubai	18:25
JZR	538	Cairo	18:30
KAC	785	Jeddah	18:45
QTR	1081	Doha	19:15
JZR	552	Alexandria	19:20
KAC	345	Ahmedabad	19:20
MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
ABY	124	Sharjah	20:00
NIA	0162	Cairo	20:15
FDB	058	Dubai	20:30
UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
DLH	634	Doha	21:00
KAC	543	Cairo	21:00
OMA	648	Muscat	21:05
MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
KAC	301	Mumbai	21:40
QTR	1089	Doha	21:45
DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
KAC	205	Islamabad	21:55
ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:00
KAC	155	Istanbul	22:15
ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
KLM	445	Bahrain	22:25
THY	1403	AYT	22:25
UAE	860	Dubai	22:35
KAC	383	Delhi	22:35
GFA	220	Bahrain	22:50
ICV	675	Hong Kong	22:55
ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:00
JZR	528	Asyut	23:05
QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
PIA	240	Sialkot	23:35
KAC	411	Bangkok	23:35
KAC	1801	Cairo	23:55

GOSSIP

Kylie Minogue's club album

Kylie Minogue's new album looks set to be filled with club bangers. The Australian pop star has teamed up with a whole host of dancefloor filler makers including 'Hot Right Now' hitmaker DJ Fresh, Dutch dance duo TV Noise and songwriter Karen Poole, for her first studio album since 2014's 'Kiss Me Once'. Sharing a picture in the studio with Kylie's team, DJ Fresh - whose real name Daniel Stein - captioned the photo posted on Twitter: "Fallen Angels week with Kylie Minogue & Karen Poole! @FaithGuitars @kylieminogue @tvnoisemusic @thecorentinlfr (sic)" The 49-year-old beauty is known for her huge dance anthems, such as 'Can't Get You Out of My Head', 'Spinning Around' and 'Sexercise', and looks set to return to that same sound she's synonymous for. It comes after DJ Sigala revealed he has worked on a track with Kylie. The 'Easy Love' producer was overwhelmed when he found out the pop superstar fell in love with his song and is considering releasing it as her comeback single. However, despite reports saying Kylie is going to go into depth about the end of her relationship with ex-fiance Joshua Sasse - whom she parted ways with in February - the 24-year-old hunk insists the song is upbeat and more about wanting to know how the other person is feeling. Asked if he thinks she picked the track because it relates to how she was feeling after their break-up, Sigala - whose real name is Bruce Fielder - exclusively told BANG Showbiz: "Yeah maybe. Maybe without thinking about it. The song isn't a break-up song really. It is just a tell me what you are feeling kind of song. "So it has a happy vibe to the lyrics as well. I guess it can be related to a few different situations and she related it to her's." Kylie recently signed a record deal with BMG and is said to be "better than ever" since inking the deal, according to label boss Alex Cory-Smith. The blonde beauty - who parted ways with Jay Z's Roc Nation management company in 2015 following a series of professional disappointments - joined her former Parlophone boss Jamie Nelson at the label, following a frantic bidding war.

Professor Green's first gig in three years

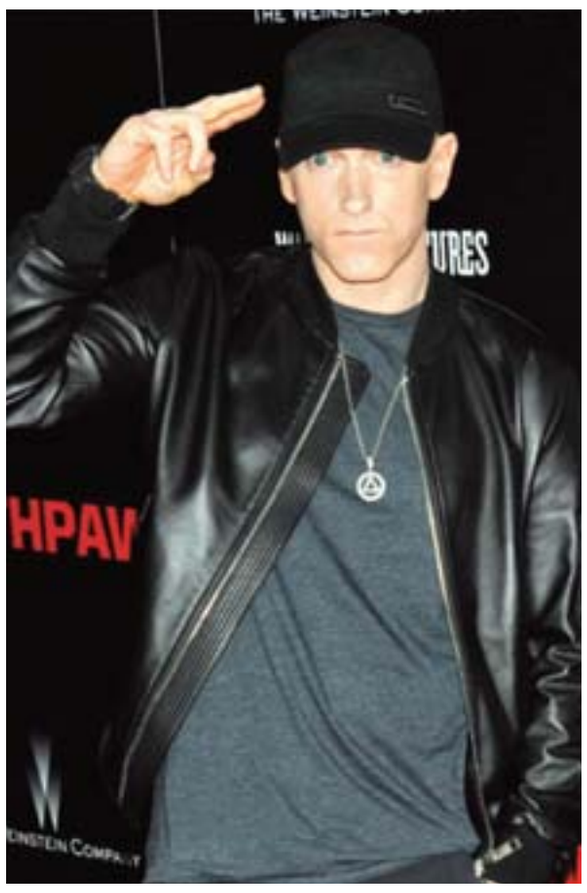
Professor Green is set to perform his first gig in three years in aid of charity. The 'Lullaby' hitmaker will perform a one-off show for Barts Charity's Transform Trauma appeal - which raises funds for those who have suffered a traumatic injury or experience and helps get their lives back on track - at East London's intimate Village Underground on September 9, with support from rising rapper Not3s and one other act, which is yet to be confirmed. The rapper and presenter has experienced trauma personally, and has also made documentaries about mental health following his father Peter dying from suicide back in 2008. Pro Green - whose real name is Stephen Manderson - said: "I'm excited to be supporting the Transform Trauma appeal. It's been three years since my last headline gig and I can't wait to get back in front of the fans. "Trauma is something that I've had personal experience of but I didn't realize how big the issue is - people don't recognize being hit by a bus, stabbed, or caught up in a terrorist as the same thing but they all result in traumatic injury. "Every penny raised from the gig will be spent on trauma research and care, helping save the lives of the 17,000 people who die from trauma every single year." The 33-year-old London-born musician previously revealed he will continue to be vocal about mental health issues because it is something he cares passionately about. He said: "It is something is so personal to me, which is why I'm so vocal about it." Fans are invited to enter and donate £5 to be in with a chance of winning one of 320 pairs of tickets, including 5 special pairs of backstage meet and greets with the rapper himself, by entering a draw by visiting transformtrauma.org.uk.

Johnson uses nebulizer to keep voice in shape

Louisa Johnson has to use a nebulizer on tour to keep her voice in shape. The 'X Factor' winner had to explain the device she has, which consists of hot salt water, as it looked like she was using a vaping device instead of a cigarette backstage at Brighton's Pride festival - the biggest celebration for the LGBT community - over the weekend. However, it turned it out she was just keeping her voice intact. The 19-year-old beauty told the Daily Star newspaper: "I have a nebulizer that looks like a vape cigarette. "But it's actually hot water and salt water and when you breathe in it turns into steam for my voice." The 'So Good' hitmaker knows how important it is to keep her voice in check after she was put on "vocal rest" days before UK TV talent show's final, which she went on to win in 2015. And Louisa will certainly need her voice to be in tip-top condition with the amount of collaborations she'd like to do. She wants to follow in the footsteps of her pal Olly Murs and collaborate with Paul Weller. The 58-year-old rocker penned the track 'Let Me In' for the 33-year-old hunk's 2014 LP 'Never Been Better' and Louisa - who did 'Unpredictable' with Olly this year - recently revealed she is keen to setup a duet with the 'Modfather' and former Jam frontman. Speaking exclusively to BANG Showbiz, she said: "I really love Paul Weller, I didn't know that Paul Weller wrote a song for Olly Murs, I might have to give him a ring." The 'Best Behavior' hitmaker has a surprisingly eclectic taste in music and would also like to dabble in rap with dreams of teaming up with hip-hop icon Eminem. She said: "I really love Eminem, he's like my favorite artist. My love of Eminem comes from my dad, he always would be listening to his songs and albums when we'd be driving around, you just pick these things up. I have a really random love of different music from like garage to Eminem, people don't know how I like these songs."

Hayek threatened Reitman with legal action

Salma Hayek threatened filmmaker Ivan Reitman with legal action after a script was changed before she auditioned. The 50-year-old Mexican beauty went to audition for a role in a film for the 'Twins' filmmaker, but despite claiming she was originally told the lead part would be altered to suit her native language, her representatives were later told they'd be "crazy" if they thought they would accommodate her for anything other than a "bimbo" part. Speaking to the Observer Magazine, the actress said: "I've never said this to anyone, the name of the director, but it was Ivan Reitman. "I was screen-testing for the lead in a film and they said that it was not written Latin, but they wouldn't mind changing it. "I learned the script but when they sent me the pages for the audition there was none of the things I had learned, it was another role. "So my agent called them and they said, 'Are you crazy? She's Mexican. We can change the race of the bimbo, but not the lead'. "And they said 'Absolutely under no circumstances'. So I said, 'OK, you tell them that they either see, or I'm going to sue them'. "And they said 'There's no point in her coming, even if she had been the best audition she would have never gotten the part... but now we hate her. Does she want to come knowing that we detest her?' " Hayek hinted the film could have been 'Six Days, Seven Nights' - which featured Anne Heche as a style magazine journalist opposite David Schwimmer and Harrison Ford as her love interests - because she explained the argument escalated after the filmmaker was unable to believe a Mexican could be a "fashion editor". She said: "I thought that the director that could see Arnold Schwarzenegger and Danny DeVito as twin and Arnold Schwarzenegger giving birth to a child [in 'Junior'] maybe could see a Mexican as a fashion editor. "I thought I owed it to the new generation of Mexicans. That if I got this right, maybe something will shift." Despite getting off to a bad start, the actress bumped into the filmmaker years after and he apologized. Hayek said: "We had such a lovely conversation. He was so elegant. He said 'I was wrong'."



Eminem album to arrive in autumn

Eminem's new album will reportedly be released in autumn. The 44-year-old rapper - whose last record was 2013's 'The Marshall Mathers LP 2' - is among names including Taylor Swift and Sam Smith who are expected to put out new records later this year on Universal, website HITS Daily Double reports. It comes after the hip-hop icon's manager Paul Rosenberg took over as the CEO of Universal Music Group's Def Jam Recordings label. Earlier this year, it was revealed that Dr. Dre, a longtime collaborator of the '8 Mile' star, is working on a track for the 'Lose Yourself' hitmaker's "latest album". 2 Chainz has also recorded a song for the album, but he didn't really believe the rap legend wanted to work with him when he first found out. He said: "I've heard it all, you know what I'm saying? I've heard it all. You know, this like rap talk. It's like, you see a rapper in the club and you're like, 'Let's do one.' "It's cap, you know what I mean? So you know, he's like, 'The boy wanna do something with you.' And I'm like, 'Whatever.' " The pair met up at producer Rick Rubin's house to team up on a song which was initially going to be a remix before 2 Chainz intervened. He said: "I tell him straight up ... 'Eminem, what would you need a remix for? Remixes are used to carry records to number one spots. When have you ever did a remix for someone or for yourself?' That's cap at it's finest." 2 Chainz feels he has finally made it in the genre now that Eminem - whose real name is Marshall Mathers - has asked to record a track with him. He added: "That's how I know I can rap. He didn't want to talk about nothing but rapping. That was a great phone call to get." Eminem released his debut solo album 'Infinite' in 1996, but he really hit the headlines in 1999 when he dropped 'The Slim Shady LP', which spawned Grammy Award-winning hit 'My Name Is'.

Williams to rejoin Take That for Christmas song?

Robbie Williams could be set to rejoin Take That for a Christmas song. Frontman Gary Barlow - who is currently joined by Mark Owen and Howard Donald in the group - recently shared a picture in the studio on Instagram teasing new music is on the way, and it's reportedly due to be released later this year around the festive season. The 'Giants' hitmakers have been eyeing getting the original five members of the group back for some shows or even an album for what seems like years. And, though they won't be marking their 25th anniversary, Mark has hinted there is a glimmer of hope that part-timer Robbie, 43, and Jason Orange, 47 - who quit in 2014 - may come "on board" for something. He told the Daily Star newspaper: "I think we would still love to do something special with all of us. "But because it feels to us like 25 years has gone we might do something at the end of this year." Gary added: "We are looking to do something, hopefully maybe get Robbie on board, and Jason." The band are working on a boxset due out in December, where the new music would likely be featured among all of their hits, and have teamed up with their usual producer Stuart Price for the release. Gary said: "Making a record with Stuart is never predictable but it's very comfortable. "He understands the band. "So many of the people that work with us have been with us for a long time. "We really hold on to people. They try getting away but we don't let them." The 46-year-old hunk said earlier this year that he thinks Robbie and Jason could return in 2022 for a 'greatest hits' tour and possibly a record. The 'Back For Good' stars have decided not to mark their 25th anniversary with a big reunion. At the time, Gary said: "I don't think anything we do with Rob is going to relate to like a big 25-year project. "In fact, I'll tell you this for the first time, we're looking at 30 years. "We're planning something to do for the 30-year all together. "We're looking that far ahead, something big, maybe a new record, maybe a greatest hits with a big tour."

Chan spent 45 minutes hanging from a helicopter

Jackie Chan hung from a helicopter for 45 minutes in 'Police Story 3'. The 63-year-old martial arts stuntman-turned-actor shot to fame with a number of American/Chinese movies, including 'Rush Hour' and 'Shanghai Knights', and admitted he doesn't like to repeat his stunts. Speaking to the Metro, the actor said: "I don't like to repeat myself so I try something new every time. "In 'Police Story' I jumped from the shopping mall Christmas decoration; in 'Project A' I fell down from the clock; in 'Police Story 3' I was hanging outside the helicopter for 45 minutes." For his latest movie, 'Kung Fu Yoga' the actor had a number of scenes with a real lion, who was the pet of a member of the Dubai royal family. He said: "It was lent by the Princess of Dubai - it is her pet. "In most scenes, the lion was filmed separately but we had some moments together in the car. "The lion was well trained but it was still scary." Not only was a lion loaned from the princess, but the actor said "luxury cars" were also lent by the royal family in United Arab Emirates (UAE) and streets were cordoned off. He said: "The film was shot in many countries, including China, Iceland, India and UAE. "The royal family in UAE lent us their luxury cars and the government cordoned off streets for us for car chases." Although known for his martial arts skills, for 'Kung Fu Yoga' - which has been described as a "fast-paced action comedy" by the actor - Chan attempted to do some Bollywood dancing and found it "difficult". He said: "I attempted Bollywood dancing this time! But doing stunts is what I am best at. "At first learning dancing was difficult but then the instructor related the movements to daily activities such as changing light bulbs or hitting the ground. "It became easier to remember moves."

Congresswoman Maxine Waters, right, and husband Sid Williams attend the Black Girls Rock Awards.

Honoree Issa Rae attends the Black Girls Rock Awards.

Honoree Roberta Flack attends the Black Girls Rock Awards.

Honoree Suzanne Shank attends the Black Girls Rock Awards.

India Arie and Tyrese Gibson perform on stage.

Ledisi performs on stage.

India Arie attends the Black Girls Rock Awards.

MAXINE WATERS, THE ROCK STAR, SHINES AT BLACK WOMEN'S EVENT

Fiery Democratic US Rep Maxine Waters was welcomed like a contemporary rock star when she entered the 2017 Black Girls Rock Awards, as the audience screamed loudly and gave her the night's rowdiest and wildest applause. Waters was one of the honorees Saturday at the annual event honoring black women in fields such as entertainment, politics, science and social justice. The 78-year-old matched the energy of the audience at the New Jersey Performing Art Center in Newark with a punchy and moving speech, which featured her catch phrase "reclaiming my time."

"I want you to know, if it was not for the love and respect shown to me by black women, those right-wing ultra conservatives ... they would have me believe I'm too black, I'm too confrontational, I'm too tough, and I'm too disrespectful of them," she said. "But now I know I'm simply a strong, black woman." "I don't care how big you are, I don't care how high you are, if you come for me, I'm coming for you," Waters added, earning more loud applause.

Videos of the California congresswoman, who has been critical of Republican President Donald Trump, have become a viral success on social media, including one where she insisted that she was "reclaiming my time" at a recent congressional hearing. She's struck a chord with millennials and has even earned the nickname, "Auntie Maxine."

Waters was joined by a top notch group of honorees at the BET event, including iconic singer Roberta Flack; "Insecure" creator and Golden Globe nominee Issa Rae; Grammy-winning soul singer Solange Knowles; Wall Street powerhouse Suzanne Shank; "black-ish" actress and Harvard student Yara Shahidi; and community organizers Derrica Wilson and Natalie Wilson of the Black & Missing Foundation. Oscar-nominee Taraji P Henson hosted the multi-hour event. Flack, known for hit songs like "Killing Me Softly with His Song" and "Feel Like Makin' Love," was wheelchair bound but recited a speech from paper that won over the audience.

"Love is a song. Each of you has a song in your heart," 78-year-old Flack said. "You keep singing that song." R&B singers India. Arie and Tyrese smoothly sang Flack and Donny Hathaway's popular 1970s duet, "Where Is the Love." Other performers at the show, to air on BET on Aug 22, included SZA, Ledisi, Anthony Hamilton and Tasha Cobb.

Each of the celebrants were inducted by men, including "black-ish" actor Anthony Anderson, soul singer Maxwell, "Insecure" star Jay Ellis and actor-singer Jussie Smollett. Knowles - who won her first Grammy Award this year for her critically acclaimed album celebrating black pride, "A Seat at the Table" - called the award "the ultimate honor." "Black women make me feel invincible," she said. — AP

Swift expected to testify in groping case in Denver

A few moments at a backstage photo session four years ago are about to be relived, as lawyers for pop star Taylor Swift and a former disc jockey she accuses of groping her begin picking jurors in their dueling lawsuits. Radio host David Mueller sued the singer-songwriter, saying he was falsely accused and that she should have called police instead of his bosses, who fired him soon after the June 2013 encounter. He's seeking up to $3 million in damages.

Swift countersued, claiming sexual assault, setting up the civil trial where she is expected to testify amid tightened courthouse security. Jury selection started yesterday. Opening statements were expected to begin Tuesday in the case that could last two weeks. Court documents say it is unlikely that either side will settle. Swift is seeking a verdict that awards her $1, while holding Mueller responsible and "serving as an example to other women who may resist publicly reliving similar outrageous and humiliating acts," her lawsuit says.

Swift is expected to testify. Mueller is also expected to testify, along with Mueller's former boss and members of Swift's entourage. Mueller, then 51, was a morning host at a country music station when he was assigned to attend Swift's concert at the Pepsi Center in Denver. Mueller was backstage with his girlfriend when they met with Swift, then 23, in a curtained enclosure. They posed for a photo and left.

Later, Swift's bodyguard confronted Mueller with the allegation that he had reached under the singer's dress and grabbed her buttocks. Mueller denied the allegation and asked that they call the police. He and his girlfriend were escorted out of the arena and a member of Swift's team called his boss.

Swift never went to the police. She tried to keep the situation "discreet and quiet and confidential" and was upset by Mueller's claim that "for some reason she might have some incentive to actually fabricate this story," her attorney, Douglas Baldridge, has argued in court. Mueller's attorney, Gabriel McFarland, argues that Mueller may have been misidentified after someone else touched Swift. In addition to Swift, who lives in Nashville, Tennessee, Mueller named her mother and a member of her team as defendants in the lawsuit. — AP

File photo shows Taylor Swift presents the award for entertainer of the year at the 50th annual CMA Awards in Nashville, Tenn. — AP

US hip-hop legends wrap up Newport Jazz Festival

The Newport Jazz Festival wrapped up Sunday with a closing performance from the legendary hip-hop band "The Roots" as a new artistic director put his stamp on one of the world's most venerable jazz carnivals. The three-day festival in Rhode Island, which began in 1954, has been headlined over the years by jazz greats such as Miles Davis, Duke Ellington and John Coltrane under the stewardship of its founder-promoter George Wein.

Since Wein stepped down last year, new artistic director Christian McBride has introduced a more eclectic line-up, featuring soul, Afro-Cuban and DJs as well as more traditional jazz stars such as Branford Marsalis who appeared on Saturday night. McBride, who is himself a Grammy Award-winning bassist, said he was proud to feature "The Roots," a band regarded as godfathers of hip-hop and best known in the United States as the house band of late-night comedian Jimmy Fallon.

"The one thing I think all these musicians have in common is that they all strive and achieve excellence," McBride told AFP. "Whatever style there is that they are in, they are excellent at it." The festival is regarded as one of the highlights of the summer cultural calendar in the northeastern United States and is held at the same venue as the Newport folk festival. — AFP

Members of the group Naturally 7 perform at Fort Adams during the Newport Jazz Festival in Newport, Rhode Island. — AFP photos

Saxophone great Branford Marsalis (center) performs with (from left) pianist Joey Calderazzo, bassist Eric Revis and Kobie Watkins during the Newport Jazz Festival August in Newport, Rhode Island.

Deaf customers play a game at the "Sin Palabras" (Without Words) coffee bar in Bogota. — AFP photos

Deaf customers discuss the menu through sign language at the "Sin Palabras" (Without Words) coffee bar.

Deaf customers and the waiter communicate through sign language at the "Sin Palabras" (Without Words) coffee bar.

First bar for the deaf opens in Colombia

It is not yet dark, but the two girls sitting at a table in a Bogota bar flick on the lamp on their wooden table. It is the signal to the bartender that they want a drink, in Colombia's first-ever bar for the deaf. The Sin Palabras Cafe Sordo-No Words Deaf Cafe-is the first of its kind in the country, Maria Fernanda Vanegas, one of three owners, told AFP. It is located in the trendy Chapinero neighborhood of the Colombian capital, surrounded by heavy metal and reggae joints.

"Its aim is for us, people who can hear, to adapt to the deaf, and not the other way round, which is always the case," said Vanegas. The No Words cafe has large screens playing music videos with the lyrics in sign language, and a dance floor that pulses with music to dancers who cannot hear it. The menus are also translated into sign language and there are games such as Jenga or dominos for customers to play.

Finally able to dance

Vanegas and her partners Cristian Melo and Jessica Mojica all have good hearing, but dreamed of opening a cafe for the more than 50,000 people in Bogota who do not. Colombia has more than 455,000 deaf or hard of hearing people, according to the last census carried out in 2005. People with normal hearing also frequent the bar, which is as noisy as any other in the capital. But the difference is that here, most of the talking is done with hands. "It's the first time I can feel the music," said Erin Priscila Pinto, a first-time client enjoying a drink with her old friend Carol Aguilera.

"That makes me really happy because it's the first time I can dance," said the 23-year-old photography student. All six waiters at the bar are deaf too, and even though many of the clients do not know sign language, they manage to convey their orders with gestures or by writing them down. The bar also features small cards showing the basics of sign language for drinkers interesting in expanding their repertoire. "I feel much more at ease with waiters who are deaf. Everything is much easier," said Pinto.

Occasional 'odious' guests

There is no need to actually speak in the bar. "Communicating with people with normal hearing can be a bit tricky at first because we don't understand them," said waiter Juan Carlos Villamil, 26. "But we get by somehow or other." Some new clients are surprised at first, but they end up getting the hang of sign language, he said. The idea for the cafe came to the owners when they saw a group of deaf people having a coffee, and asked them about their social lives. Now they want to open more bars like this across Colombia and elsewhere.

It is not all plain sailing however. Some "odious" guests occasionally take advantage of the waiters' deafness to slip out without paying or to smash glasses, said Vanegas. The bar opened on June 16, and with its exhibitions, story-telling and other cultural performances by hearing-impaired artists, it is already well on its way to becoming one of Bogota's more hip watering holes at weekends. "We want to show the world that deaf people have talent," said Vanegas, as Pinto used her smartphone to record a video to show her mother the bar where people listen with their eyes and speak with their hands. — AFP

Deaf customers communicate through sign language at the "Sin Palabras" (Without Words) coffee bar.

Deaf customers and the bartenders communicate through sign language.

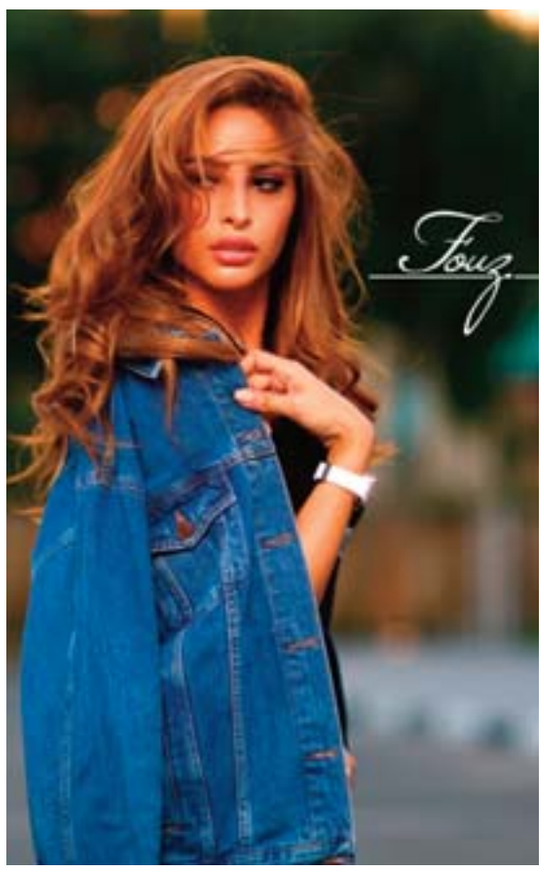
Simple tips to look stylish this summer

By The Real Fouz

Summer to me is all about laying back and really enjoying the moment instead of spending too much time getting ready or worrying about how I look. It isn't very difficult to look pulled together. Here are a few tips that will save you a lot of time and have you looking and feeling at your best this summer.

1. Pair a bold lip color with a classic black/white outfit:

Pairing a bold lip with a classic black or white outfit is one of my favorite looks. If you take a scroll through my Instagram, you'll notice I do this a lot, especially during the summer. I love the combination of minimal make up when I'm tanned, paired with a bold lipstick like a classic red or a bright pink or purple. It can instantly make you look like you've spent hours on your look when in reality it takes only a few minutes to achieve this look.



You can also wear a casual t-shirt with a pair of plain or ripped jeans pairing it with a matching pop color for the shoes and lips. For example, my recent look in Monaco, a plain t-shirt with ripped jeans worn with a pair of red/orange pumps with a similar lip color was a cool look that I really loved.

2. Follow a summer trend:
The Print trend

Print trends are one of the most popular trends seen during the spring/summer season and one of the easiest to follow. From stripes to floral to bright colors, its always fun to incorporate a printed piece to spice up any outfit. Even if you're spending your day at the beach, go for a colorful printed or patterned beach dress which will make it look like you've put more effort into your look than going for something plain. Bright colors also compliment a tan very well.

The Cut out trend

Shoulder cut outs are one of my recent favorite trends. I love the added detail it gives to any outfit and how it can transform a plain outfit into something much more. There are so many different variations to this trend like elbow cut outs, waist cut outs, and so much more that people can follow depending on the look you're going for. It's also a great way to look trendy when your in a rush and don't have much time to put an outfit together.

3. Let your hair do the talking:

Never underestimate your hair ladies, because it can really make or break an outfit. Many times a fun hair-do with a simple or plain outfit can totally transform the look. Anything from a half bun to braids to a messy topknot can really change your overall look. My personal favorite is a half bun because it is very easy, takes no time and stylish at the same time. Always remember that looking good doesn't always have to take a lot of time, it's all about the little details that can make or break a look.

San Diego Opera to produce 'Frida & Diego' about famed Mexican painters

A Spanish-language opera based on the tumultuous love story of famed Mexican painters Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera will premiere in 2020 in San Diego. "The Last Dream of Frida & Diego" is being co-produced by San Diego Opera and Fort Worth Opera, which will be the first to present the new supernaturally themed work in 2020. The commission is also being underwritten by the College of Fine Arts at the University of Texas at Austin and DePauw University.

After its Forth Worth debut, the opera will be presented at the Balboa Theatre as part of San Diego Opera's Detour Series of smaller-scale, nontraditional works. Production dates have not been announced. Because Kahlo and Rivera are the most important and famous Mexican artists of the 20th century, the co-producers and creative team plan to make an official announcement about the opera on Aug. 24 at the Palacio de Bellas Artes cultural center in Mexico City.

"The Last Dream of Frida & Diego" will feature a libretto (the operatic word for script and lyrics) by Pulitzer Prize-winning Cuban-American playwright Nilo Cruz and score and lyrics by Latin Grammy Award winner and pianist Gabriela Lena Frank. The opera will be set in 1957, a month before Rivera's death in Mexico City. On the Day of the Dead - when Mexicans honor family members who've passed away - the famed muralist walks through a cemetery and dreams of reuniting with his former lover, the colorful painter Kahlo, who died in 1954. For 24 hours, the underworld's keeper of souls, Catrina, releases Kahlo's spirit to wander the city with Rivera. Their tempestuous love story is told through song and their often-autobiographical paintings.

Frank will be only the second woman composer to have her work produced by San Diego Opera since its founding in 1965 (Laura Kaminsky, whose "As One" will be presented this fall, is the first). The Berkeley-born Frank, who has been composer-in-residence for Houston Symphony for the past three years, specializes in creating works inspired by Latin American folklore. The composer-librettist team of Frank and Cruz have written nine works together over the past decade, including a song cycle about Kahlo for singer Dawn Upshaw and the St Paul Orchestra.

'Anna in the Tropics'

Frank credits Kahlo for introducing her to Cruz in Manhattan in 2007. A small opera company approached her that year about writing an opera about Kahlo, but because she didn't know how to write a libretto, a friend introduced her to Cruz. That original opera was never commissioned, but she and Cruz hit it off so well they've been collaborating ever since. Cruz is best known for his stage play "Anna in the Tropics," which won the 2003 Pulitzer. With Peruvian composer Jimmy L?pez, he adapted the 2001 novel "Bel Canto" for Lyric Opera of Chicago. He also wrote the book for Frank Wildhorn's musical "Havana."

San Diego Opera General Director David Bennett said he's thrilled to be involved in the co-production because of the company's commitment to new work and telling stories that connect with local audiences. "Creating and producing new, innovative works of opera helps us deepen connections with the diverse community of San Diego," Bennett said. "In looking for the right subject matter, the lives of Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera made perfect sense to us. Their extensive bodies of work influence creative artists here in our community, on both sides of the border." — www.sandiegouniontribune.com

In this March 31, 1932 file photo, from left to right: Frances Flynn Payne, who is selecting dancers; artists Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo; and William C Hammer, artistic director of the Philadelphia Grand Opera Company, seen in Philadelphia, where they are preparing the ballet "Horsepower" at the Metropolitan. — AP

Centrepoint launches it awaited Back-to-School collection 2017

Centrepoint, Middle East's largest fashion retailer, has launched its much awaited Back-to-School collection at an exclusive event held at the Crowne Plaza hotel.

The event which showcased the fabulous back-to-school collection and highlighted this year's must-haves, latest trends and tips on getting ready for school was attended by local media, VIP customers, and management of Landmark Group and was hosted by Zeinab Al-Ali.

Speaking at the event Saibal Basu, Chief Operating Officer, Landmark Group said, "We are very excited to unveil our comprehensive collection of back-to-school products at this event today. We look forward to making the new school year an exciting and memorable one by offering an amazing range of the latest and trendiest school gear."

The new back-to-school collection from Centrepoint includes everything from water bottles, stylish backpacks, to pencil pouches and stationery items in an array of attractive designs and affordable prices.

Babyshops' selection of products features a range of items perfect for little girls and boys who want to embrace their adventurous spirit! Backpacks for the little fashionistas show all their favourite heroines with characters such as Elsa from Frozen or their all-time favourite Hello Kitty. As for the boys' collection, it is packed with adventure and will have your children diving into their own little superhero world. Featuring backpacks with characters such as Superman and Batman, boys can unleash their inner hero so they can head to school full of joy and energy. For the action fans, the collection this year features Transformers and Ferrari gear. The collection of backpacks are stylish and functional with a complete set of pencil pouches, tritan bottles and spacious lunch boxes for your child's special meal.

For trendy teens looking for an edgy style for their school year, Lifestyle has a range of printed backpacks with characters too! With Centrepoint's back to school collection, kids can find boho blitz patterns, flower power designs, pop expression prints for an eye- catching gear. The range sports popular products from brands such as Hershel, Sackroots, Jworld, Jansport, Minmei and Outsider in attractive prints and colours.

Shoemart's collection for back to school wardrobe will have children feeling their best when completing their uniform look. Boys and girls can put their best foot forward with a range of black uniform shoes, white canvas sneakers and sporty kicks for the active school days. Children can head back to school the smart way with Velcro buckle shoes with soft insoles that prevent shoe bites and that are high on comfort for the school year. Shoe Mart's back to school collection also offers a selection of brands like Puma, Skechers and Reebok that bring together a range of shoes with high durability. This year's collection also unfolds character stories for girls to go with formal school dressing such as Disney themed characters, Barbie, Cinderella and has also includes the first Hello Kitty shoes that will have each girl the envy of all her friends.

Splash's back to school selection highlights trendy new backpack designs for popular superhero characters like Batman and Superman. Along with caps, sling backs, pouches and headphones, this year's collection features Barbie, Smiley range and Hello Kitty that will have teens flaunting their new gear as they start the New Year.

Get your hands on the Back-to-School collection; please visit any of the Centrepoint stores located at Al-Rai, Avenues, Salmiya, Fintas, Jahra, Fahaheel, Sulaibhikhat, Kuwait City, Khaitan and Hawally.

Ali Khalifeh, a lute-maker, tries a oud at a shop in the Syrian capital Damascus. — AFP photos

Ali Khalifeh, a lute-maker, tries a oud at a shop.

Syria's traditional oud-making on the decline

'It's a profession under threat'

Antoun Tawil, one of Syria's last traditional lute makers, waits in vain in his Damascus workshop for orders of the oud, an instrument his country was once renowned for producing. While the conflict that has ravaged Syria over the past six years has devastated many of its historic crafts, the production of the oud, the oriental lute, has been particularly hard hit. Lute-makers have emigrated in large numbers, and the Damascene wood used to build the instruments has also become rare.

"There were around 20 workshops before the crisis, between Damascus, Aleppo and Hama... Now there are no more than six," four of them in Damascus, said Tawil. The slender 57-year-old is one of them. In his tiny nine-square-meter shop in Tekkiyeh Sulamaniyeh, an Ottoman complex made up of a mosque and a crafts market, Tawil contemplates the ouds hung around him.

Some are richly decorated, delicately inlaid with mother-of-pearl and ivory. Named after the Arabic word meaning a piece of wood, the oud is a key instrument in Middle Eastern music. It is related to the guitar, the Russian balalika and the Greek bouzouki, and the instrument is characterized by its short neck and large, full body that gives the instrument a pear shape.

'Beautiful as a Persian rug'

All six craftsmen that used to work in Tawil's two workshops have fled Syria. "Before the crisis, we opened at 5:00 in the morning and worked all day long because there was so much demand," he said wistfully. In a single month, Tawil used to sell a dozen ouds, many of them destined for abroad, including Europe and Canada. "Nowadays, a month goes by without selling anything." With the Syrian pound's devaluation, prices have also plummeted. "I used to sell an oud for 5,000 Syrian pounds ($100). Today, I sell them for 35,000 ($70)."

Still, he talks passionately about the Syrian-specifically Damascene-oud, which he describes as both the most exquisite but also the most durable of Arab lutes. "Our ouds can last 70 years without needing maintenance," he said with a proud smile. "I've made pieces as beautiful as a Persian rug." The secret to its durability lies in the first steps of the craft, according to Issa Michel Awad, an expert in the oud and other stringed instruments at the Higher Institute for Music in Damascus.

"It's the way the Damascene wood is chosen, the way it is dried and cured," he explained. "That is why you can still play a Damascene oud dating from 1990 today without a single false note." But in today's conflict-ridden Syria, it is precisely this treasured wood that poses a problem. "We rely on walnut wood, which is very high quality and is specifically available in Eastern Ghouta," said Ali Khalifeh, a prominent lute-maker in Damascus. Eastern Ghouta is a rebel bastion east of the capital, under government siege and beyond craftsmen's reach." Today, this wood is being used by people in Ghouta for heat... It is becoming rare," he said.

'Profession under threat'

The first Damascene oud was produced in 1897 by Abdo Al-Nahhat, who became one of the country's most renowned lute-makers. In the early 20th century, the oud was the favored instrument among Syrians, played at marriages or during gatherings of female socialites. Khalifeh's atelier in the Adawi neighborhood is now half-artisanal, half-mechanized. Ironically, he has found demand has increased for his products because of the relatively few competitors. While Tawil uses steam to individually shape the oud's ribs by hand, Khalifeh's workshop uses machines to bend 20 at a time and smooth the wood.

The neck's pegs are screwed in by hand. "Polishing the oud by hand takes between five and six hours. With the machine, it's done in 15 minutes," said Khalifeh, who exports across the Middle East, as well as to France and the United States. "We used to make 10-15 ouds a month, now we make 20," added Khalifeh, who learned the profession from his father at the age of 14.

Even with his own orders up, Khalifeh feel the industry is in terminal decline. "When I look at the state of my profession, I can say it is in the process of disappearing," he said. Tawil agreed. "It's a profession under threat," he said, lamenting that in addition to the effects of the war, "young people don't have the time to learn". Like many in the field, he learned the trade from his father and is now passing it on to his daughter. But he sees a glimmer of hope in the artisans who have emigrated, taking their expertise with them. "In Quebec, there are now Syrians who are opening their own production workshops," Tawil said. — AFP

A Syrian worker sands a oud.

A Syrian worker cuts out wood at a oud workshop.

A Syrian worker sands a oud at a workshop .

Ali Khalifeh, a lute-maker, adjusts the strings on a oud.

A Syrian worker strings a oud at a workshop.

A Syrian worker sands a oud.

A Syrian worker sands a oud.

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Spider-Man fans dressed as his costume pose with the movie's posters prior to the Japan premiere for the "Spider-Man: Homecoming" in Tokyo, yesterday. — AP

Architects, refugees team up on tiny houses in Berlin

'It will be a house that mirrors society'

A man inside one of the tiny houses in Berlin.

(Left) The tiny houses in Berlin. Noam Goldstein inside one of the houses (right). — AFP photos

The Tiny Houses Project's construction site, with cafe (left) currently being built as well as a small house (right), an experiment in providing housing to people in need.

Troubled to see a long queue of asylum seekers shivering for hours on a winter's day outside Berlin's notoriously chaotic registration center, Van Bo Le-Mentzel decided to take action. "I fetched my drill and collected some wood that I found randomly in the streets and brought it to the line where people were standing there bored to death and we just started building," the architect told AFP. The end products were pint-sized playhouses that children could crawl into for shelter as well as break up the monotony of the endless wait.

It also marked the birth of the so-called Tiny House University, a project bringing together architects, designers and refugees to experiment with innovative ways to house a population in need. "We are trying to create new kinds of housing forms in society in which it's possible to live and survive without having land or money," said Le-Mentzel. The tiny house trend emerged several years ago, largely in the United States as people chose to downsize their living space out of environmental or financial concerns.

In Berlin, it has been given a twist for contemporary needs. For a start, Le-Mentzel's team which includes six refugees, is collaborating with the Bauhaus Archiv to build 20 tiny houses occupying 10 square meters (100 square feet) each. Together, the houses will form a temporary village on exhibition until March 2018. Some will serve as lodging, while others are destined to be a library, cafe, workshop or community center. Each building is fitted on wheels-which Le-Mentzel said means they can be parked on public streets as a form of trailer. "In Berlin we have 1.5 million cars registered and they are all standing in the streets overnight, not in use. Each car is about 10 square meters," noted Le-Mentzel. "So I'm asking what would happen if we just replace these 1.5 million cars with tiny houses or with mobile playgrounds for kids or with open spaces where neighbors can cook together, eat together, find company together, where refugees can create a start-up in the streets-opening a restaurant, (giving) a haircut."

Microcosm of society

Like metropolitan cities worldwide, property prices in Berlin have shot up as the city shed its Cold War divided past to become a tourism and party hotspot, as well as an investment magnet. Although new builds are mushrooming across the capital, refugees and low-income locals are finding themselves priced out. Le-Mentzel views his Tiny100 as a prototype for small apartments which can be let out for 100 euros ($117) a month to low earners.

His ultimate goal is to fit out a building not only with regular-sized apartments, but also such compact homes, allowing the "rich and poor, students and entrepreneurs" to live together. "It will be a house that mirrors society," he said, adding that talks are ongoing with "three or four investors" about making his dream come true. "But we are at the beginning of the process." Ali Fadi, a Kurdish refugee from Syria, has not thought that far to having his own tiny apartment.

The 33-year-old is simply reveling at being able to practice his trade. Fadi is an experienced carpenter, but had found himself shut out of the German job market because he lacked the paper qualifications. Measuring a piece of wood before sawing it off for the tiny house that would house a cafe, Fadi said he hopes that his work in the project would help overcome the bureaucratic barrier. "I hope I can get a job doing this," said Fadi.

Ali Fadi, a Kurdish Syrian refugee and construction worker, is hoping his work on the Tiny Houses Project will help him get a job in his field.

Van Bo-Mentzel, head of the Tiny House University Project, sits inside a small house built on the construction site for the project at the Bauhaus Archive Museum of Design in Berlin.

Party for 13 in 6 sqm

At a warehouse area in southern Berlin, another member of the team, Noam Goldstein, is fitting insulation into one of the 20 tiny houses.

His version of the small home would feature not just the usual trappings of an apartment, but also include solar panels, a compost toilet and a hydroponics garden. The carpenter expects material cost for the house to run between 12,000 and 15,000 euros. While some components like windows have to be purchased, Goldstein said much of the wood used is recycled pallet wood.

"When you look at the financial aspect, it provides a very cheap way for people to build their own house," said Goldstein. Researcher Amelie Salameh, who was among the initial ones to try out the first of the 20 tiny houses overnight, is a convert.

Measuring just six square meters, the first tiny house built by Le-Mentzel himself for the project is a self-contained unit with a living room, kitchen, sleeping area, toilet and shower. "The way it was designed, there were mirrors, a lot of light, I never felt trapped inside," said Salameh, who lived in the house called Tiny100 for three weeks.

She even had two friends sleep over for a night, and once also hosted a visit of 13 people. "We had a few beers, it was fun," she said, adding that "you just have to think about where you're putting your stuff, and to tidy up constantly, because the place gets full quickly." — AFP