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ZAIN TO SELL TREASURY SHARES TO OMANTEL

Deal valued at KD 255.4m



Zain Vice-Chairman & Group CEO Bader Al-Kharafi

KUWAIT: Mobile Telecommunications Company (Zain), a leading telecom pioneer in eight markets across the Middle East and Africa, announced yesterday that it has entered into a definitive agreement to sell its entire block of treasury shares, representing 9.84 percent of Zain's fully paid in and issued share capital, to Oman Telecommunications Company (Omantel). Under the agreement, Zain will sell 425,711,648 shares to Omantel for KD 0.600 per share.

The price of the treasury shares of KD 0.600 represents a 33 percent premium to the spot price on 9 August and 36 percent premium to the 1-month volume-weighted-average-price. The sale of the treasury shares will raise KD 255.4 million, or \$846.1 million, in cash before expenses. The equity issuance will further strengthen Zain's balance sheet and provide significant liquidity. The proceeds will be used for general corporate purposes, including the potential prepayment of certain debt obligations.

Commenting on the transaction, Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi, Vice Chairman and Group CEO of Zain said: "The liquidity from the sale of these treasury shares will significantly enhance Zain's strategic and financial flexibility at a time where we continue to seek opportunities in the digital space and invest in upgrading our modern networks to enhance the mobile experience for our customers. We welcome the investment by Omantel which demonstrates their confidence in the strength of our business and in Zain's strategic direction of becoming a premier integrated digital lifestyle operator."

The sale of treasury shares of Zain was approved by its shareholders and the Capital Markets Authority of Kuwait earlier this year and the current transaction has been approved by the Board of Directors of both Zain and Omantel. The transaction is subject to certain other regulatory approvals and processes including the approval of Boursa Kuwait and is expected to close in the third quarter of 2017. Citigroup Global Markets Limited served as financial advisor and Meysan Partners as legal advisor.



Local Spotlight

WAS INVASION A LESSON?



By Muna Al-Fuzai

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Last week was the 27th anniversary of the brutal Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. This painful anniversary brought back many memories to citizens who remained in Kuwait, and to expats who found themselves forced to leave or the few of them who remained and suffered from torture and humiliation. In 1990, no one in Kuwait expected this historic disaster. Back then, everyone said the invasion was a lesson learned. Today, I wonder how much we have learned from it. Was it a lesson?

After all the years, I find many of us haven't fully understood the lesson. Kuwait today seems completely different on many levels. Not only compared to the period before the Iraqi invasion, but even from a few years ago. For example, 20 years ago, bribes accepted from businessmen and employees was a disgraceful crime in the public's eyes, but today I find that this word has been replaced by the word "commission" to make it socially acceptable.

Some people even brag about taking bribes, and view it as an act of talent. So over time, stealing millions of dinars has become an act that reflects intelligence, and those who do it deserve respect? Is this the lesson that we learned after the attempt by Saddam's regime to steal our homeland Kuwait? Perhaps the most important lesson is to preserve the homeland and its internal security, because alienation and exile is not easy and we should not accept any attempt to discriminate against us. We need to know the importance of cohesion and solidarity between Gulf countries, which stood together for the liberation of Kuwait until victory.

Today, with the emergence of the Gulf crisis with Qatar,

many people and some writers have started to take sides with or against the various parties, and forgot that Qatar stood with us during the invasion. We must be good mediators and call for peace and unity. We are facing many enemies, so I do not understand how some people use social media to take fierce and harsh positions with or against any country to keep their group or party happy.

The other lesson is the historical position of all friendly countries that stood with Kuwait against the injustice that happened against us. Whether these countries were from Europe or the United States or some Asian and African countries, they sympathized with Kuwait in its ordeal during that difficult period of history for Kuwait and the Gulf. Today unfortunately, the Western world is following the Gulf crisis, but with no vital action, and everyone is seeking a solution commensurate with their interests. We need to be careful.

Another key lesson is to achieve self-reliance and stop depending on others to do everything for us. Look at the large number of maids and workers in every home and corner. And people still complain about domestic labor problems? How about boosting the national economy to achieve self-sufficiency and enhance food security? We cannot even cultivate rice, corn, etc.

So what did we learn? The rejection of the culture of hatred and extremism is a big lesson. Have we achieved this? The Gulf states are required to emphasize GCC unity if we are to remain as an economic power. The preservation of the GCC is essential. These are a few lessons that we are supposed to have learned the hard way from a harsh and painful event like the Iraqi invasion. Have we accomplished all this now?

in my view

RIGHT BEFORE YOU GIVE UP HOPE

By Alia Al-Hazeimi

They say that hope is the first step to disappointment or hope is the only thing you have before giving up. I found myself in an unknown situation for the past year of my life, until a couple of days back, when I had an interesting conversation with a very good friend.

Sometimes we lose things that mean the world to us (excluding humans) - a job that meant something to you; a task; a sport that you loved very much but had to give up due to an injury, etc. The things give meaning to our existence; the reason why we do the things we love doing. In many cases, these losses happen with you having no control over them, yet you are left with this unexplainable feeling of grief, as if someone ripped something away from you. Eventually, this may lead to you giving up in other aspects of your life, most importantly believing in yourself and believing that you can still do much.

While walking in that dark valley of lost dreams and ambition - and I must tell you that it is a consuming, cold and sad walk - the simplest word can take you where you used to be before descending into that valley.

My beloved friend asked me: "What happened to you? Remember when you were so persistent in getting what you wanted and you bluntly said, 'I know I can make a difference - this is where I belong'." She was referring to my previous job. In that very moment, I said: "Because it was exactly what I wanted - it was my dream since I was young." It was the right fit - it was something that sparked energy in me every single day and gave me reason to exist. It was a job that fulfilled me emotionally and spiritually (in case you are wondering, I used to work with an international humanitarian organization).

The dark side of loss is that it blinds you from everything that is still good - even though they are not yielding results - they are still good. Human beings are capable of doing so many things. Even if your stars are not aligned - there is a way out. There is something that humans call "hope". Writing this piece is actually my first step into coming back in the light, appreciating things around me and things within me that were long lost and forgotten, starting a small spark that may lead to a big fire if persuaded correctly.

Never underestimate yourself; never belittle whatever you do; never forget what you are made of. At the end of the day, you can still find a way out and find the main road - only if you truly wish.

Welcome to wonderland!

Photo

o f t h e d a y



KUWAIT: The newly renovated Al-Gharabally street in Souq Al-Mubarakiya downtown Kuwait City. — KUNA

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Fig trees.



Kuwaiti Farmer Mubarak Al-Owaini. — Photos by Moayad Hassan



The golden Kuwaiti tea is being served.

Field of experiments inside Al-Owaini greenhouse

By Athoob Al-Shuaibi

When you open the gates of the Al-Owaini greenhouse, you are hit by a draft of cool, humid air because of the huge exhaust fans that draw internal air outwards, condensing it to cool the place. Unlike regular greenhouses, this hothouse is like a field of experiments - a travelling funfair of trees, aromatic herbs and climbing vines. Between the pleasure of discovery and learning, the owner of the greenhouse, Mubarak Al-Owaini, took us on a journey of the secrets of his success in agriculture amid the harsh weather of Kuwait.

He explained with pride, delight and passion about his plants, as if they were his own children. "Let's start with figs. They are in the fruiting period. I have five types of them - the American is the sweetest. Another sweet type of fig is called Jassim Al-Shehab. It was named after the first Kuwaiti who brought the figs to Kuwait. I make sure that they grow to a natural size by not adding too much soil with fertilizers and nitrates, as some farmers do. I bear in mind that they will be eaten by my folks and friends, whom I don't want to harm," Owaini said.

Cultivating saffron

Two years ago, Al-Owaini farm succeeded in cultivating saffron, which grows in cold areas such as Europe and Iran, and is now entering the breeding stage of bulbs. "It's really difficult to cultivate saffron from seeds - I would definitely never recommend it. Not to mention that European countries forbid the export of saffron seeds. It's better to get them from the bulbs. The best one I bought was from Spain, but now I'm producing my own bulbs", he told Kuwait Times.

As he walked us through the trees, he stopped at the berries. "Usually, berries are produced once or twice a year. However, I managed to deceive the plant to fruit three times

a year through the process of an irrigation cutoff period, pruning and pre-harvest irrigation," he said. There are four fruiting coffee trees at the Al-Owaini farm. The first person to grow coffee in Kuwait was Kuwaiti farmer Nasser Al-Azmi, through seedlings. He produced his first crop six years later. Four and a half years ago, Owaini took the coffee seeds from Azmi and planted them in his nursery. "The Yemeni Kholani coffee is one of the finest," Owaini claimed. "What you see is the first production."

Grapevines dangle from the terrace, and on one of the sidewalls, the climbing passion fruit tree is in the irrigation cutoff period. Under a grapevine, we sat along benches, waiting for the Kuwaiti tea to be prepared. It was strange to see that the tea bushes were tiny, unlike the ones you find in the highlands of Sri Lanka. "I'm intent on growing them small to ensure quality. The best tea leaves are baby ones that on the upper side of the bushes. So I keep them young and lowly. I don't produce large quantities - it's only for farm visitors", said Owaini. The tea was golden in color, refreshing and equally rich as he described. It was like something we'd never tasted.

Al-Owaini Farm is split into an outdoor crop area, an animal barn, a diwaniya and the greenhouse. It was originally run by his brother. "My late father held a passion for agriculture, and I inherited this from him and learned a lot from him. But my brother isn't into this, thankfully. He handed me the management of this farm because he knows how passionate I am. I wasn't ashamed to go to the top farmers in Kuwait to benefit from their experiences, and I owe them much. In addition, I'm constantly following up on the latest developments in this field," said Owaini.

Recognizing the problem

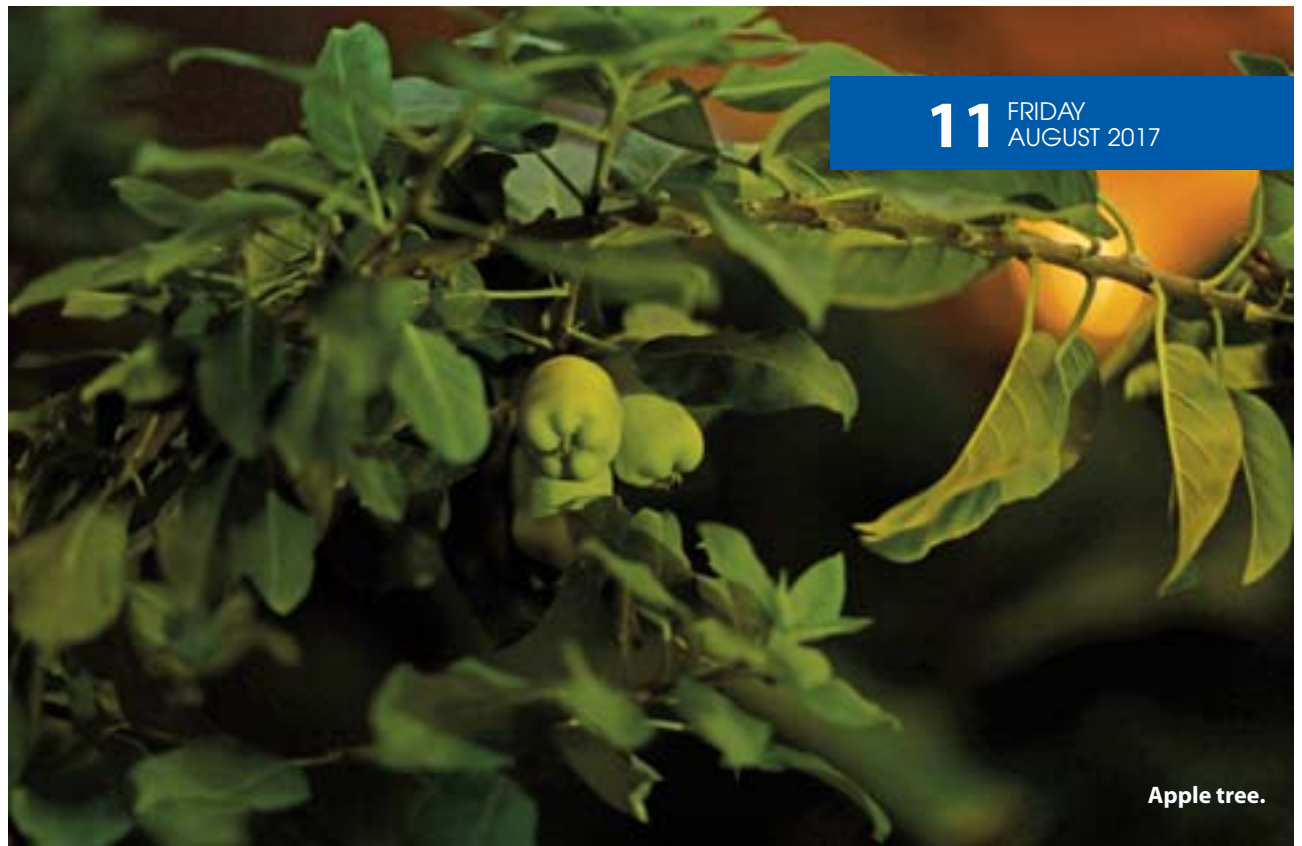
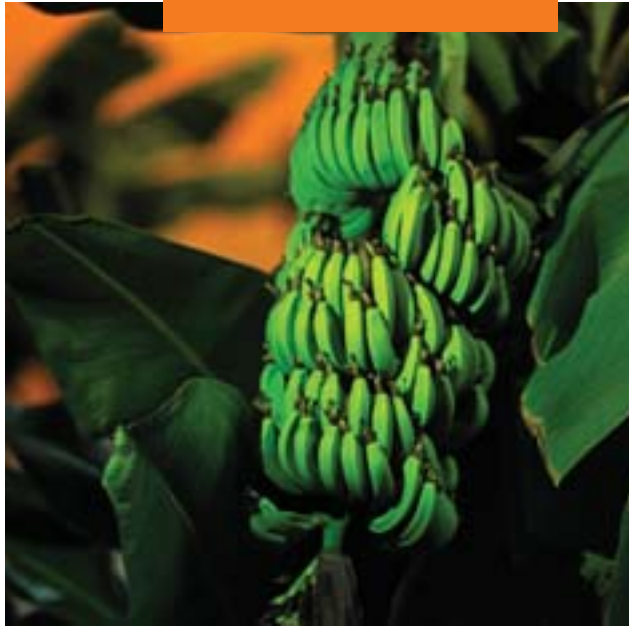
The greenhouse contains diverse fruits such as banana, fig, grape, guava, citrus, aromatic herbs and flowers, as well as aloe vera, in addition to ornamental trees. All of these usually



Mubarak Al-Owaini explains the importance of these blue sheets to discover the plant diseases.



Banana trees.



Apple tree.

grow in cold and humid regions, so how did Owaini succeed in cultivating these plants?

"We must first recognize that the problem of agriculture in Kuwait is not the sun - it's the hot air. You can grow any kind of plant if you can block the hot air around it during the summer. Secondly, plants are like humans and animals - they get hungry and thirsty. For instance, when one gets used to a set mealtime, he starts to think about food an hour earlier. If the food is delayed, he'll get upset, and maybe angry. It is crucial to water the plants on schedule. Otherwise, they will grow bigger but will never yield," he explained.

"Also, by mixing sand and water and pouring the mixture on top of the roof, I create a cloudy environment, so that the plants are not directly exposed to sunlight. When winter arrives and rain falls, it will rinse away the mixture and it will no longer be needed," Owaini added.

Owaini's interest in farming extends to animals and insects

- he provides water for birds and cares for cats. He also doesn't kill "good" insects. "Beneficial insects feed on plant pestilence, and in this way, we rely less on spraying pesticides, which I carefully choose. I also abide by the period of pesticide exposure. No harvesting or entering the greenhouse is allowed until this period ends. We call this the period of prohibition," Owaini told Kuwait Times.

Owaini is known for his volunteer activities, and distributes free seedlings to citizens. In addition, he gives daily tips about agriculture on Instagram and Snapchat, and has hundreds of thousands of followers. "Kuwait went through a real sad time after the Iraqi invasion. People lost interest in agribusiness. It virtually disappeared due to the devastation. But now, it has strongly returned, especially among women," he beamed.

Follow Owaini @kwt.farmer on Instagram and @Fnatek on Snapchat



Bonsai trees.



Coffee trees.



Water lilies.



Pineapple bush.

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Life a rollercoaster ride for Filipina family driver

Viola has spent 32 years working for her supportive sponsors

By Ben Garcia

We rarely hear stories of housemaids being treated fairly by their employers. In fact, most of the stories published by local dailies are about the miserable conditions and mistreatment of domestic workers. Based on records from the interior ministry obtained by Kuwait Times, the number of Filipino domestic helpers as of April this year was around 164,600 out of 250,000 OFWs in Kuwait. A few are mistreated, but a majority of them are treated fairly, according to a Philippines Embassy official.

Inay Viola is one of them. For the past 32 years, she has been working for the same employers. When she started, the eldest son of her employer was barely a month old. "They all grew up under my care. I have been living with them for the last 32 years," she told Kuwait Times. Viola is 63 now and hails from Batangas in the Philippines. Although she came to Kuwait in 1985 as a domestic helper, since 1995, Viola has been serving as a family driver for the Al-Ghareeb family.

Due to her excellent performance, she was promoted and her sponsors hired new nannies to support Viola. For the last 22 years, Viola has been driving her boss daily to work and back, dropping the kids to school and also running errands for the family. "I came to Kuwait in March 1985 as a domestic helper after losing my husband to cancer. It was terrible, as I had to feed the family. My husband died when I was 27. I married him when I was 16 and we had five children. In the Philippines in the 1980s, we were facing a terrible economic situation because of political tensions brought by Marcos' martial law," she recalled.



Inay Viola speaks with Kuwait Times.

Viola accepted a job abroad a few years after her husband passed away. "I thought I could cope with life in the Philippines without my husband. For five years, I helped my family survive. I worked hard cleaning houses and doing the laundry for others," she recalled. When she accepted the job abroad, it was during a time when no one would spare her even a centavo for food to feed her kids.

Kind Sponsors

"It was tough, but I didn't show my kids that I couldn't provide for them. I worked day

and night, but it wasn't enough," she said. When she got a chance to go abroad, she sold a portion of her share of the family land. "Thank God I was able to find a good employer. To me personally, they are like God's angels. They helped my family a lot. If they wouldn't have helped me, I would probably be under a huge debt for the rest of my life. When my youngest child was hospitalized, my employer paid all the hospital bills - almost half a million pesos," she said.

"Their kindness towards my family was sealed and tested



Inay Viola in her employers' vehicle.

once again my son fell ill and was hospitalized again, and they paid the bills once more. Thank God for this family for being so genuine and sincere. My employer's kids treat me just like their grandmother, and I am happy about it," Viola added. She said she was never treated wrongly by anyone from the Al-Ghareeb family. "I feel at ease and comfortable here - they have never treated me like an outsider. I have taken care of their five children since they were infants and I am still with them although they have grown up. When they need something,

they call me - even when they need directions in Kuwait!" she laughed.

Viola considers Kuwait as her second home, and misses the country when on vacation in the Philippines. With her job, she has been able to visit more than 30 countries around the world. "I was able to visit many countries in Europe, Asia, Africa and America, an opportunity one can have only if they are rich," she noted.

WEEKEND SKY TO WITNESS PERSEIDS METEORS SHOWER

KUWAIT: The Perseids meteors shower is expected to be visible in Kuwait today evening and tomorrow, Astronomer and historian Adel Al-Saadoun. It will be the clearest meteors shower seen in over a hundred year, Saadoun said yesterday. Hundreds meteors can be seen per hour. He said that these meteors are the dusty debris of Comet Swift-Tuttle that approaches the Sun once every 120 years, and when it travels away, it leaves debris and gases behind.

When the Earth approaches the waste, it attracts them. Saadoun noted that the Perseids meteors enter the Earth atmosphere at a speed of 59 kilometer per second, and gets burnt at about 80 kilometers from the planet surface. A meteors shower is a spike in the number of meteors or 'shooting stars' that streak through the night sky. Most showers are spawned by comets. As a comet orbits the Sun, it sheds an icy, dusty debris stream along its orbit. If Earth travels through this stream, one sees a meteor shower.

Although the meteors can appear anywhere in the sky, if one traces their paths, the meteors in each shower appear to 'rain' into the sky from the same region. Meteor showers are named for the constellation that coincides with this region in the sky, a spot known as the radiant. For instance, the Perseid meteor shower is so named because meteors appear to fall from a point in the constellation Perseus. —KUNA



KUWAIT'S ICE INDUSTRY, A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

KUWAIT: With the temperature in Kuwait soaring up to 50 Degrees Celsius and beyond, people mostly tend to stay at their air-conditioned dwellings drinking icy cold beverages to fend off the heat. Today, it might be typical and even normal to fetch ice from the refrigerator or the nearest supermarket, but getting ice in the past was not as simple as a walk in the park.

Back in the day, Kuwaitis need for ice was satisfied via shipments from Iraq's Basra city, heritage researcher Hussein Al-Qattan said, revealing that the first rudimentary ice factory was established in the late 1800s by Mohammad Al-Fawzan. Qattan added that ice, known 'Falj' in old Kuwaiti dialect, was not only sold by shops and small factories, regular folks used to buy and re-sell ice as well as make their own home-produced molds to peddle.

Perhaps the most famous depiction of old ice peddlers was in the classic Kuwaiti drama 'Darb Az Zalag,' roughly translated as the slippery road, said Qattan. One of the show's characters, played by late actor Khaled Al-Nefisi, was a vendor selling ice at his 'Falj Bu Saleh' spot next to his house, said Qattan, affirming that this specific portrayal helped in a way to historical document this profession. According to the researcher, most people in the past were able to afford ice with the margin price being around 2 to 4 fils in today's currency.

He said that ice was stored in special water-filled vases made from glass and metal, adding that the ice molds were chopped down to smaller pieces to fulfill the needs of clients. As time went by, big factories began to sprout in Sharq, Mirqab, and Shuwaikh areas, leading to more ice production and the advent of various 'goodies' such ice-cream, said Qattan. —KUNA



HOT, HUMID WEATHER DURING WEEKEND IN KUWAIT

KUWAIT: Hot and humid weather is expected during the weekend, especially in coastal areas, said the official at the Kuwait Meteorological Department Abdulaziz Al-Qarawi yesterday. Today's weather will be hot and humid especially on the coastal areas, with southeast light to moderate wind at speeds between eight to 35 kph, the high temperature will be between 45-47 Degrees Celsius, said Qarawi.

The status of sea Friday will be light to moderate waves at

heights of two to four feet, said the meteorologist. The lowest temperature today will between 30-32 degrees. Qarawi said that tomorrow would be very hot and humid with a light to moderate southeast winds at speeds of eight to 26 kph. Highest temperature would be between 47-49 Degrees Celsius and the lowest between 31-33 degrees. Status of the sea will be light to moderate waves at one to three feet high during daytime and light to moderate at the evening at one to four feet high. —KUNA

LEBANESE OFFICIAL UNDERLINES KUWAITI WOMEN'S EFFECTIVE ROLE

BEIRUT: Lebanese Minister of State for Administrative Development Affairs Enaya Ezzeddine underscored yesterday eminent status of the Kuwaiti women in serving the Kuwaiti society particularly in the political realm. The Kuwaiti woman's role is substantiated with its effective role in the National Assembly (the Parliament), the Lebanese woman minister said, hoping the Kuwaiti woman will be able to develop further and turn into an example to be followed in the Arab world, Minister Ezzeddine was speaking to KUNA on sidelines of the fifth international conference or Arab women in computing, hosted by the American University in Beirut (AUB). The convention aims at boosting Arab women's potentials so they may turn more effective and productive, minister Ezzeddine indicated.

Meanwhile, Zainab Al-Me'raj, Kuwaiti



University professor, said she was taking part in the conference as a member in a Kuwaiti delegation for discussing women role in computing and supporting those who serve in private and government sectors. Me'raj, also representative of the Arab Women in Computing Foundation, said the establishment is guiding young

Kuwaiti women to master information technology and computer programming to empower them serve in various sectors, where IT and computer sciences have become a necessity. The three-day convention groups a large number of male and female IT experts from Arab and foreign countries. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Chairman and board members of Al-Weqaya Ghaya (protection is our goal) voluntary team met with Ahmadi Governorate's Director of the Technical Office Department Ibrahim K Al-Fouderi yesterday. The Two sides discussed projects that are of interest to the community and environment. Fouderi expressed the governorate's readiness to cooperate in such helpful ideas that promote awareness of important issues among various groups of the society.

SEVEN ARRESTED FOR STEALING CABLES

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Criminal detectives arrested seven Asian men accused of stealing land power cables from inside manholes. Detectives received information about some people damaging manholes in Jaber Al-Al, so investigations

were launched. Detectives eventually found a vehicle that was carrying a number of freshly-cut cables. They arrested the people who were inside the vehicle, and they confessed to cutting the cables in order to sell them to a scrap shop in Mahboula. They were all sent to concerned authorities to face legal action.



KUWAIT: A truck carrying frozen meats turned over at the Sixth Ring Road opposite to Saad Al-Abdullah following an accident. No injuries were reported in the incident. —By Hanan Al-Saadoun



DUBAI: In this Tuesday, July 25, 2017 photo, Korean waitresses play music at the Pyongyang Okryu-Gwan North Korean Restaurant in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. —AP

KUWAIT TELLS AP: NORTH KOREAN WORKERS WELCOME AMID CRISIS

DUBAI: Stalwart US ally Kuwait will continue to grant visas to North Korean laborers whose wages allegedly aid Pyongyang in evading international sanctions, its government told The Associated Press on Thursday before its ruler travels to Washington to meet President Donald Trump.

In a statement responding to an AP story, Kuwait also said it never stopped issuing work visas for North Koreans, refuting a major State Department human trafficking report released in June that applauded the Mideast nation for taking steps to limit their presence.

Kuwait's response shows the challenge the US faces in trying to convince Gulf nations to cut back on using thousands of North Korean workers on major construction projects and to close government-run restaurants in the region. Experts and analysts say the money earned from those enterprises helps Pyongyang buy luxury goods and build the missiles it now uses to threaten the US territory of Guam, as well as other parts of the US and America's Asian allies.

Kuwait currently hosts 6,064 North Korean laborers, the country's Public Authority of Manpower said in a statement sent to the AP by the Information Ministry. That is more than double the estimate offered by two officials with knowledge of Pyongyang's operations in the Gulf who spoke to the AP. Speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss intelligence reports, they earlier said some 2,500 North Koreans worked in Kuwait.

Kuwait also dismissed the notion it cut off the laborers from coming to its construction sites. "There are no plans to expel North Korean laborers and Kuwait has never done so," the statement said. However, in June, the State Department said that Kuwait had stopped issuing new worker visas to North Korean laborers. Former Secretary of State John Kerry also had applauded Kuwait in 2016 for stopping direct flights by North Korea's state-run Air Koryo as a means to stop "an illegal and illegitimate regime in North Korea."

Forced labor

The State Department's June report alleged that since 2008, North Korea sent over 4,000 laborers to Kuwait "for forced labor on construction projects, sourced by a North Korean company operated by the Workers' Party of Korea and the North Korean military."

"According to these reports, employees work 14 to 16 hours a day while the company retains 80 to 90 percent of the workers' wages, and monitors and confines the workers, who live in

impoverished conditions and are in very poor health due to lack of adequate nutrition and health care," the State Department said. The US Embassy in Kuwait City did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Most North Korean workers in the Gulf earn around \$1,000 a month, with about half being kept by the North Korean government and another \$300 going toward construction company managers, the officials said. That leaves workers receiving \$200 for working straight through an entire month, they said. Even \$200 a month can go a long way in North Korea, where the per-capita income is estimated at just \$1,700 a year.

Outside of Kuwait, Pyongyang sends workers to the Gulf countries of Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, all US allies. The workers face conditions akin to forced labor while being spied on by planted intelligence officers, eating little food and suffering physical abuse, analysts and officials say. Gulf nations keep their ties with North Korea largely quiet while supplying oil and natural gas crucial to the economies of Pyongyang adversaries South Korea and Japan.

Tough position

For Kuwait, the ongoing North Korea crisis puts the tiny, oil-rich nation in a tough position diplomatically. Kuwaitis even today will embrace Americans they meet in the street over the US-led 1991 war that ended Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein's occupation of the country.

The country hosts some 13,500 American troops, many at Camp Arifjan south of Kuwait City, which also is home to the forward command of US Army Central. Guam, which Pyongyang now threatens to target, hosts 7,000 American troops - showing the strategic importance of Kuwait to the US. But Kuwait also hosts North Korea's only embassy in the Gulf, through which Pyongyang conducts all its diplomatic affairs.

Kuwait's 88-year-old ruler, His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, is scheduled to travel to Washington in September to meet Trump. The visit by Sheikh Sabah comes as he's been trying to mediate a dispute between Qatar and Arab nations, though North Korea potentially could come up at the meeting as well.

However, Kuwait's long embrace of America should not be seen as it giving up making its own foreign policy decisions, said Shafeeq Ghabra, a political science professor at Kuwait University. Hosting North Korean laborers is part of that, he said. "Being very close does not mean we become identical," Ghabra said. —AP

International

FRIDAY, AUGUST 11, 2017

Iranian blogger says she feels 'safe' after reaching Israel



Science says: Trump team garbles on climate science



Remembering partition: 70 years since the divide



SEOUL: A man watches a television screen showing US President Donald Trump, left, and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un during a news program at the Seoul Train Station. — AP

N KOREA OUTLINES PLAN TO LAUNCH MISSILES

US PACIFIC TERRITORY OF GUAM REMAINS IN CROSSHAIRS

SEOUL: North Korea yesterday announced a detailed plan to launch a volley of ballistic missiles toward the US Pacific territory of Guam, a major military hub and home to US bombers, and dismissed President Donald Trump's threats of "fire and fury" if it doesn't back down. The announcement, made in the name of a general who heads North Korea's rocket command, warned the North is preparing a plan to fire four of its Hwasong-12 missiles over Japan and into waters around the tiny island, which hosts 7,000 US military personnel on two main bases and has a population of 160,000.

It said the plan could be finalized within a week or so and would then go to leader Kim Jong Un for approval. It would be up to Kim whether the move is actually carried out. It said the missiles would hit waters 30 to 40 kilometers away from the island. It is unclear whether North Korea would risk firing missiles so close to US territory, which could provoke countermeasures and further escalation.

North Korea frequently uses extremely bellicose rhetoric with warnings of military action to keep its adversaries on their heels. It generally couches its threats with language stating it will not attack the United States unless it has been attacked first or has determined an attack is imminent. But the statement raised worries amid a barrage of threats from both sides. Following reports that US intelligence suggests the North might be able to pair a nuclear warhead with a missile capable of reaching targets on the United States mainland, Trump warned North Korea that "it faces retaliation with fire and fury unlike any the world has seen before."

Extremely unusual

Pyongyang, meanwhile, has been louder in its complaints against a new and tough round of sanctions imposed on it by the United Nations, with strong US backing, and Washington's use of Guam as a staging ground for its stealth bombers, which could

be used to attack North Korea and are a particularly sore point with the rulers in Pyongyang. Even so, its reported plan to launch missiles toward Guam is extremely unusual. The report said the Hwasong-12 rockets would fly over Shimane, Hiroshima and Koichi prefectures in Japan and travel "1,065 seconds before hitting the waters 30 to 40 kilometers away from Guam."

It said the Korean People's Army Strategic Force will finalize the plan by mid-August, present it to Kim Jong Un and "wait for his order." "We keep closely watching the speech and behavior of the US," it said. Such a move would not merely be a test launch, but a demonstration of military capabilities in a manner that could easily lead to severe consequences. If North Korea were to actually carry out such a launch - even if it aimed at hitting the waters off the island and not the island itself - that would clearly pose a potential threat to US territory and put the United States in a much more complicated situa-

tion than it has been during previous missile launches.

Guam lies about 2,100 miles from the Korean Peninsula, and it's extremely unlikely Kim's government would risk annihilation with a pre-emptive attack on US citizens. It's also unclear how reliable North Korea's missiles would be against such a distant target, but no one was writing off the danger completely. Washington has been testing its missile defenses in response to the North's stepped-up development and the current escalation of tensions could lead to pressure for the U.S. military to try to shoot down the North's missiles in midflight if they are heading toward Guam.

That would likely open up a set of very major problems, including the possibility of both a very high-profile failure or a miscalculation of Washington's intentions and a more deadly pre-emptive strike by the North - which has missiles able to hit Tokyo and conventional weapons that could devastate South Korea's capital of Seoul.—AP

AL-QAEDA'S FREED HOSTAGES MAKE FIRST APPEARANCES

JOHANNESBURG: Two men released from Al-Qaeda captivity after six years in northern Mali made their first public appearances yesterday, recounting their ordeals and saying they were not clear whether any ransom was paid for their freedom. "I think it's wrong to pay ransoms," 42-year-old Johan Gustafsson, who was freed in June, told reporters in Sweden. "I hope they let me out because they were tired of me." Sweden has insisted it never paid any ransom and that his release was obtained through negotiations.

Gustafsson and 42-year-old Stephen McGown were the longest-held of a number of foreigners seized by Islamic extremists in Mali, where several armed groups roam the West African country's north. The extremists have made a fortune over the last decade abducting foreigners in the vast Sahel region and demanding enormous ransoms for their release.

McGown told reporters in South Africa he didn't know whether any ransom was paid for his release in late July. South Africa's government has said it paid no ransom. He said he was well-treated during his long years in the desert, but "you always knew you were a prisoner." McGown also said he found out about his mother's death just minutes before he arrived home in South Africa. His mother died in May.

Dutchman Sjaak Rijke also was seized with Gustafsson and McGown in Timbuktu but was rescued by French forces in April 2015. A fellow German traveler was killed during the kidnapping. The founder of the South African aid organization Gift of the Givers Foundation, which helped mediate McGown's release, said he didn't know whether any ransom was paid or any prisoners exchanged for the men's release. But Imtiaz Sooliman said the extremists' initial demands started at 10 million euros per captive.

When asked how they coped during their long years in the desert with their captors, Gustafsson said he converted to Islam "to save my life." He said fleeing the extremists had been "out of the question." He had been on a motorcycle tour of Africa when he was seized. McGown, who said he also converted to Islam, said his captors gave him clothes, food and medication. "I did my best to see the best in a bad situation," he said. He described how he learned some Arabic to communicate and said he watched birds migrate "backwards and forwards" across the vast Sahara.— AP

MCCAIN UNVEILS NEW AFGHAN WAR STRATEGY

WASHINGTON: In a rebuke of President Donald Trump, Arizona Sen John McCain declared yesterday that "America is adrift in Afghanistan" as he unveiled a war strategy of his own that includes more US combat forces and greater counterterrorism efforts. McCain, the Republican chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said the US needs to put strict conditions on continued assistance to Afghanistan requiring Kabul to demonstrate "measurable progress" in curbing corruption, strengthening the rule of law, and improving the government's financial transparency. "Nearly seven months into President Trump's administration, we've had no strategy at all as conditions on the ground have steadily worsened," said McCain, a leading voice in Congress on national security matters. "The thousands of Americans putting their lives on the line in Afghanistan deserve better from their commander in chief."

McCain said he'll seek a vote on his "strategy for success" in Afghanistan when the Senate returns in September and takes up the annual defense policy bill. His plan doesn't say how many more US forces should be sent to Afghanistan. Frustrated by his options, Trump has withheld approval of a long-delayed Afghanistan war strategy as he searches for a plan that will allow American forces to pull out once and for all.

Troop deployment

The United States has about 8,400 troops in Afghanistan, and Trump has so far resisted the Pentagon's recommendations to send almost 4,000 more Americans to expand training of Afghan military forces and beef up US counterterrorism operations against Al-Qaeda, a growing Islamic State affiliate and other extremist groups. But the troop deployment, which would augment an already existing US force of at least 8,400 troops, has been held up amid broader strategy questions, including how to engage regional powers in an effort to stabilize the fractured nation. These powers include US friends and foes, from Pakistan and India to China, Russia and Iran. — AP



SANAA: In this photo, a girl scavenges for recyclable items at a garbage dump in a street in Sanaa, Yemen.—AP

YEMEN'S CIVIL WAR TURNS COUNTRY INTO CHOLERA BREEDING GROUND

SANAA, Yemen: Collapsing on sidewalks and constantly vomiting, some of the Yemeni villagers barely make it to the tiny health center where doctors spread carton sheets in the backyard and use trees to hang bags of IV fluids for patients. They are part of a stream of hundreds of suspected cholera victims that continues to converge on the center from the impoverished town of Bani Haydan in Yemen's northern Hajja province. Just hours after being infected, vomiting and diarrhea cause severe dehydration that can kill without rapid intervention.

Yemen's raging two-year conflict has turned the country into an incubator for lethal cholera: Primitive sanitation and water systems put Yemenis at risk of drinking feces-contaminated water; wells are dirtied by runoff from rainfall on piles of garbage left uncollected for weeks; farmland is irrigated with broken sewers due to lax oversight and corruption; medical intervention is delayed due to unpaid government employees and half of the country's health facilities are out of service.

The cholera outbreak in Haiti has killed more than 9,000 people since 2010, but Yemen has seen the largest outbreak of the disease ever recorded in any country in a single year. The United Nations and international aid organizations say they are shocked at the speed and scale of the outbreak. "It's a cholera paradise," said George Khoury, head of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Yemen. "It's a recipe for disaster."

One in every 120 Yemenis is now suspected of being sick with cholera, according to the International Committee of the Red Cross. There have been around 2,000 deaths in the country since April 27. About 5,000 people fall

sick every day and more than 450,000 more are suspected of having the disease, according to the World Health Organization. The majority of those exposed to the bacteria known as *Vibrio cholera* don't fall sick and only 1 in 10 infected people develop signs of cholera. Cases are mostly treatable with a simple rehydration solution or IV rehydration.

The role the war has played in Yemen's cholera outbreak can't be overemphasized, said Adeb al-Rassabi, Sanaa general coordinator for the Electronic Disease and Warning System, the country's epidemic surveillance system. If not for the conflict, "we would have been able to contain cholera in no more than one month, no more, no doubt." Khoury acknowledged that UN agencies were caught by surprise at the rapid increase in the spread of the disease and missed an opportunity to control it in its early stages.

Overhead flashlights

UN organizations and government health authorities initially thought the outbreak was over after a mild wave of the disease that started in October. A decline in new cases in February prompted a cut in funds to health centers and a relaxation among health monitors, said al-Rassabi. But the outbreak returned with a vengeance in late April and Khoury pointed to the failure of the surveillance system designed to spot early cases as a primary reason for its return. "This is like a fire alarm so if there is smoke and the system is not working, the fire will rage (throughout) the entire place," he said.

Yemen's civil war pits a Saudi-led coalition supporting the internationally recognized government against Shiite Houthi rebels. Disputes between the government and Houthis over revenues

have left about a million civil servants, including 30,000 medical staffers, without salaries since September. Rima al-Youssefi, head of the surveillance system, defended her agency, telling The Associated Press that employees work around the clock without pay. "There is no budget ... there is a severe shortage of everything," she said.

Her agency is just one of many state bodies that have been left to fall apart without help from the international community. Although the UN has appealed for \$2.1 billion for relief work this year, only 44 percent has been funded. In the town of Kohlan al-Sharaf, not far from Bani Haydan, doctors use overhead flashlights to examine patients in a school converted into a makeshift health center after the facility next door reached full capacity.

Cholera hotspot

Cash-strapped doctors say they haven't been paid for months and some have pawned their wives' jewelry to buy clean water. Health workers tasked to monitor, collect and report data to the central agency are in debt, even borrowing money to charge their phones. The war, which has killed 10,000 civilians, caused famine to spread to parts of the country. UN figures show there are 17 million people who are hungry. Nearly 80 percent of Yemen's children need humanitarian assistance while 2.2 million children suffer from acute malnutrition.

Around 14.5 million people do not have access to clean water and sanitation. The chance of death from cholera increases if patients already suffer from malnutrition or other health issues. Last month, UN agencies canceled the delivery of a million doses of vaccines, saying it was already too late for the vaccines to act as a preventive measure.—AP

AMBUSH PUTS SPOTLIGHT ON THE FOGGIA MAFIA

MILAN: Officials in Italy's southern Puglia region yesterday demanded a more concerted response to a lesser-known organized crime syndicate, the day after gunmen killed four people in an ambush, including two people who happened to witness the hit. The president of the Foggia province of Puglia, where the shootings occurred near an abandoned railway station on Wednesday, is calling for more uniformed law enforcement and more highly trained investigators to combat the Foggia crime syndicate, which is blamed for 17 killings this year alone.

"I am deeply shocked by the ferocity of the mafia ambush," Foggia president Francesco Miglio said before an emergency meeting of law enforcement led by Italy's interior minister later yesterday. "The barbarity even hit two innocent workers who were silenced only because they happened to be present for the crime."

'Fourth mafia'

The ambush has put the spotlight on a long-overlooked crime syndicate that authorities say arrived in Foggia - the spur of the Italian boot - decades ago as an offshoot of the Naples Camorra, expanding from asserting control in agriculture to tourism and the drug route from Albania. The Italian parliament has sent a commission to the area to study the phenomenon at least twice in recent years, and an investigative unit of the Carabinieri police was recently assigned to Foggia for the first time.

Still, the so-called "fourth mafia," has never garnered national media attention like that of the Sicilian Cosa Nostra, the powerful Calabrian 'Ndrangheta or the Camorra itself. "This extremely barbarous form of criminality in Foggia has been too long considered a second-class mafia," a top anti-mafia prosecutor, Franco Roberti, told RAI state radio. He said it has been linked to 300 murders over the past three decades, 80 percent unsolved.

In Wednesday's hit, a local crime boss appears to have been the main target when gunmen traveling in a car opened fire on another vehicle, killing the boss and his driver, who was identified as his brother-in-law. The killers then chased down another vehicle containing two local residents who apparently happened to witness the shootings, and killed them. Investigators said they were trying to understand if the attack was the result of a vendetta between clans feuding over territory, or if it is a skirmish in a wider mafia war.—AP



JERUSALEM: Iranian blogger Neda Amin speaks during a press conference. — AP

IRANIAN BLOGGER SAYS SHE FEELS 'SAFE' AFTER REACHING ISRAEL

TIMES OF ISRAEL FOUNDING EDITOR BROUGHT HER TO COUNTRY

JERUSALEM: An Iranian blogger who wrote for an Israeli news website and who left her country for exile after threats of imprisonment arrived in Israel yesterday, saying she feels "safe now" after finally reaching the Jewish state. Neda Amin spoke shortly after arrival in Israel at a joint press conference with David Horovitz, the founding editor of the Times Of Israel where her work has appeared and who helped bring her to the country.

Amin, 32, had been living in Turkey since 2014. She says she left Iran after being threatened with prison for writing material critical of the government in Tehran. Turkish authorities recently told her she would be deported back to Iran and that she was in "such danger," Amin

added. Horovitz, after hearing of Amin's plight about two weeks ago - and feeling that his news site had an obligation to her - spoke to the relevant Israeli authorities to help her.

'I was under such danger'

"I thought that there was a choice, which is to do nothing or to see if we can save her," he added. "I'm very happy. Israel (is) like my country. ... I think it's my country, and I think in my mind that I am safe now," she said. "I was under such danger, and such a difficult life and persecutions, so at the end the state of Israel provided me with this" opportunity. Israeli Interior Ministry spokeswoman Sabine Haddad said Amin was currently in Israel on a tourist

visa. Amin said at the press conference that she hopes she can stay in Israel. Amin has written several books about social issues and women's rights in Iran. She also wrote articles critical of the theocratic Iranian government. Iran is a bitter enemy of Israel and supports militant groups sworn to the destruction of the Jewish state such as the Lebanese Shiite Hezbollah group and the Palestinian Hamas. Israel regards Iran as its most dangerous adversary because of its nuclear program, development of long-range missiles and calls for its demise. Amin said most of her family in Iran has cut ties with her because her work appeared in Israeli media. She said she has Jewish roots on her father's side. —AP

RUSSIAN NATIONAL DETAINED OVER PLANNED DRONE ATTACK



ADANA: Turkish police officers escort Russian national Renad Bakiev. — AP

ISTANBUL: Turkish authorities have detained a Russian national and suspected Islamic State group militant for allegedly planning a drone attack on US aircraft at Turkey's Incirlik air base, police said yesterday. Renad Bakiev was detained in the southern city of Adana over suspicions that he plotted to crash an American aircraft or attack the Incirlik air base using a drone, Adana police said in a statement. Turkish private news agency Dogan said a court later ordered him formally arrested pending a trial.

Bakiev also intended to attack the local Alevi community in Adana city, the statement said. It said he was affiliated with IS and had previously traveled to Syria. The Alevi religious minority is an offshoot of Shia Islam and is the largest religious group in Turkey after Sunnis. IS regards Alevis as heretics. Bakiev appealed for 2,800 Turkish Lira (nearly \$800) from other militants on the Telegram messaging application, which IS sympathizers use widely, to buy a

drone, police said.

The private Dogan news agency said during his questioning that he allegedly defended the need to kill Alevis and considered them "enemies of Allah," the statement said. During police interrogations, Bakiev admitted to reconnoitering the air base for his strike, the police statement said. A previous attempt he made to attack Americans was unsuccessful.

Bakiev's plans came to light in testimony from suspected IS members detained in a counterterrorism raid in June, according to Dogan news agency. That operation captured the alleged commander of an Adana-based IS cell, 32-year old Abdulkemir Cakar, and 10 others. The US Air Force has used Incirlik air base, near Adana, as a staging post for the air campaign against IS in Syria and Iraq since 2015. IS militants have used armed drones to deadly effect in Iraq and Syria, converting commercial drones to carry small explosives. — AP

KENYAN ELECTION OFFICIAL: HACKING ATTEMPT FAILED

KENYANS TENSELY AWAITED THE FINAL TALLY OF ELECTION

NAIROBI: The database of Kenya's election commission was unsuccessfully targeted by a hacking attempt, a top official said yesterday, disputing allegations by opposition leader Raila Odinga that hackers were able to infiltrate the computer system and manipulate results against him following Tuesday's vote. The comments by Wafula Chebukati, the commission chairman, came as Kenyans tensely awaited the final tally of an election pitting Odinga against President Uhuru Kenyatta, who is shown with a wide lead in provisional results that election officials are painstakingly trying to confirm with checks of documents from polling stations nationwide.

While most of this East African country of more than 40 million people was calm, clashes between police and protesters erupted in a Nairobi slum on Thursday. Police fired on rioters in Kawangware, a poor area of the capital, said an Associated Press photographer. One injured man was carried away by protesters who said police shot him.

On Wednesday, at least three people were shot and killed in confrontations between security forces and opposition supporters in several areas of Kenya, East Africa's commercial hub whose stability is a key concern for the region. "Hacking was attempted but did not succeed," Chebukati said at a news conference. He said "all the presidential results will reach the national tallying center" by noon Friday, indicating that a final announcement on the winner could take at least another day. The election commission has a week from the vote to release the final tally.

'Judicial process'

International observers said they have not noted any signs of interference with the vote and appealed to Kenyans to be patient. "We affirm the conviction that the judicial process, the judicial system of Kenya, and the election laws themselves make full and adequate provision for accountability in this election. The streets do not," said former US Secretary of State John Kerry, an election observer for The Carter Center.

"Elections should never be an issue of life or death," said



NAIROBI: Protesters who had been engaged all day in clashes with riot police, erupt in celebration after hearing news from an opposition press conference which they interpreted as meaning opposition leader Raila Odinga would become president, in the Kawangware slum of Nairobi. — AP

Marietje Schaake, the Dutch head of the European Union mission observing the elections. Odinga's hacking allegations "should be seriously looked at" as part of the process of verifying the final tallies, she said hours before the chairman of the election commission said a hacking attempt had failed.

John Mahama, chief election observer for the

Commonwealth and former president of Ghana, said election observers don't have the capacity to investigate the hacking allegations, and noted that Kenya's voting and counting system appeared "credible, transparent and inclusive." The election commission has defended its electronic voting system as secure. — AP

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BOSNIA MARKS 20TH ANNIVERSARY SINCE PRINCESS DIANA'S LAST VISIT

HER LAST OVERSEAS TOUR BEFORE TRAGIC ACCIDENT

SARAJEVO: Bosnia is marking the 20th anniversary of Princess Diana's visit, her last overseas tour before she died in a car crash in Paris. Her crusade against land mines led to her three-day visit to Bosnia from Aug 9, 1997, during which she met victims who sustained their injuries during the country's savage civil war in the 1990s.

Three weeks after her visit, which coincided with news of her romance with millionaire Dodi Al Fayed, the pair died in a car crash in Paris when their driver lost control of his car as they were pursued by photographers. British Ambassador Edward Ferguson said yesterday during a memorial conference in Sarajevo that Diana would be saddened by the fact that mines still kill people in Bosnia.

"What I think 20 years ago Princess Diana did is that she shone a light on this problem with mines, and she really brought it into public attention in an enormous way, in a way, perhaps, that only she could have done," Ferguson said. "By walking through a mine field in Angola, by visiting Bosnia-Herzegovina just a few days before she sadly died. She really got the public attention and therefore political attention as well."

He said undetected land mines still represent a danger in Bosnia despite some recent progress. A half-million people, or about 15 percent of the population, live with this fear of mines, Ferguson added. The princess' trip to Bosnia was organized by The Land Mines Survivors' Network, a group founded in 1995 by two American victims of land mines, Ken Rutherford and Jerry White. As part of the visit, Diana made a surprise visit to the Suljkanovic family in their modest home in the small village of Dobrnja near Tuzla.

Joy turns to shock

Several weeks earlier, the father of the family, Muhamed Suljkanovic, had lost both his feet after stepping on a land mine in the forest outside his house, a remnant of Bosnia's three-year war. Diana took him some cake on Aug 9, his birthday, his wife Suada remembered. "Diana and her friend Ken (Rutherford), the American, they brought the birthday cake, and they sang happy birthday to him, and we were in shock. How did they know?"

But the Suljkanovic family's joy turned to shock and disbelief when, just a few weeks after Diana's visit, they heard on the radio that the princess had died. "What? I said to myself. How? Where? I could not believe it. Immediately after that I named my newborn daughter Diana, after the princess. They say we have to somehow remember good people, and we remember her like that," Muhamed Suljkanovic said.

During her visit, Princess Diana promised financial support for Muhamed for a new prosthesis. Just a couple of months after she died, the family say they received a donation from the royal family, the exact amount promised by Diana. Another land mine victim, Malic Bradaric, was only 13 in 1996 when he stepped on one while playing in his village of Klokočnica. The incident left him without most of his right leg. When Diana came to visit, he said this week that he expected a royal in a shiny dress wearing a crown. Instead, she arrived on his doorstep wearing jeans and a white shirt. Bradaric and his friends, who had a chance to meet Diana, said she was "a light at the end of the tunnel" for them. He now remembers the shock when he heard that the princess was killed. "That light that we saw at the end of the tunnel just turned off," Bradaric said. — AP

FRENCH SOLDIER ATTACK SUSPECT NOT KNOWN AS RADICAL: POLICE

PARIS: The man suspected of ramming a BMW into a group of soldiers near Paris is a 37-year-old Algerian who was known to police as a suspect in minor crimes but not as someone with radical beliefs, police said yesterday.

Hamou Benlatreche was living legally in France and had never been convicted of a crime, a police officer involved in the case told The Associated Press. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not allowed to speak about an ongoing investigation. Police have not disclosed a motive for the attack. Benlatreche's name was on the letterbox for an apartment in a building in the suburb of Bezons, north of Paris, that police searched Wednesday night. Neighbors there refused to speak to reporters yesterday.

Six soldiers were hurt in Wednesday's incident, though none had life-threatening injuries. Benlatreche was arrested in northern France following a highway manhunt, police said. Police officers opened fire during the arrest to subdue him, and he was injured along with an officer hit by a stray police bullet, officials said. The suspect was hospitalized but police did not provide an update on his condition.

A police trainee only identified by his first name, Laurent, told Europe 1 radio that while driving on the highway north of Paris, he noticed a car passing at full speed with its windshield, hood and front bumper damaged. "I thought, 'It's weird... I'm going to take the vehicle's license plate,'" he said. Mohammed Benlatreche, who identified himself as the Hamou Benlatreche's uncle, told BFM television his nephew was a practicing Muslim who told his family he was working as a driver for deliveries and for Uber.

He said he was "stunned" when he heard the news. "It was not believable it was him." He said his nephew never showed any signs of radicalization. Counterterrorism prosecutors opened an investigation on potential charges of attempted murder of security forces in connection with a terrorist enterprise, the Paris prosecutor's office said. Authorities said the driver deliberately rammed his BMW into a cluster of soldiers as they emerged from a building in the suburb of Levallois-Perret to board vehicles for a new shift. The building is used as a staging point for soldiers in France's operation to protect prominent sites, police officials said. It was the latest in what's become a disturbingly familiar pattern of attacks targeting French security forces. — AP

PAKISTAN'S DEPOSED PM CRITICIZES TOP JUDGES

JEHLUM: Pakistan's deposed prime minister yesterday criticized the country's Supreme Court judges for disqualifying him from office, pledging to keep up his quest for justice even as the crowds following his "caravan of democracy" road rally dwindled. Nawaz Sharif embarked on an on-the-road rally on Wednesday from Islamabad, heading to his hometown of Lahore.

His convoy, traveling amid tight security along the Grand Trunk Road linking the Pakistani capital and the eastern city of Lahore, initially drew tens of thousands of people, but the crowds were much smaller yesterday. At a speech during a stop in the town of Jehlum, Sharif noted that he was voted into office by the people but judges ousted him. "I was removed in a minute," he said. "It is not an insult to an elected prime minister, but an insult to millions of voters," he said.

Sharif stepped down after the Supreme Court's July 28 decision, but says he did it reluctantly. The thrice-elected premier's dismissal left Pakistan briefly in limbo but Sharif's ruling party, which holds a comfortable majority in the country's Parliament, promptly elected Shahid Khaqan Abbasi as his successor. As new prime minister, Abbasi has ordered special measures for Sharif's safety. In 2007, a bomb and gun attack killed Pakistan's former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto during an election rally in Rawalpindi. Sharif held



JEHLUM: Deposed Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif addresses his supporters behind glass during a rally. — AP

a rally in Rawalpindi after sundown on Wednesday. He served three separate stints as premier but never completed a full term in office. In 1993, then-

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan removed him on corruption allegations. And in 1999, Gen. Pervez Musharraf seized power in a coup. — AP

S AFRICA'S OPPN MOVES TO DISSOLVE PARLIAMENT

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa's main opposition party submitted a motion to dissolve the nation's parliament yesterday, which, if passed, would require fresh national elections. "The ANC is willing to do anything to protect President Jacob Zuma," said John Steenhuisen, chief whip of the Democratic Alliance party. "South Africans need to be given the opportunity to make their voices heard at the polls."

The dissolution motion comes hot on the heels of a no confidence vote which Zuma narrowly survived earlier this week. The dissolution attempt, which requires 201 out of 400 parliamentary votes to pass, is seen as unlikely to succeed as the ANC holds a majority of 249 of the house's seats. The motion says the some ANC lawmakers "no longer represent the earnest hopes and aspirations of the electorate" and "exhibit unquestioning fealty to President Jacob Zuma and to the organization he leads."

The ANC blasted the DA's move as an attempt to subvert the will of South African voters by trying to dissolve a government that received 62 percent of the national vote in the 2014 polls. Zuma has survived multiple attempts by the opposition to remove him from power, as he has faced growing anger over multiple allegations of corruption while the economy has slid into recession. Tuesday's no-confidence motion was the first to be held by secret ballot, and more than 25 members of his ruling party revolted and supported the motion or abstained, the ANC said. "We are deeply disappointed that some of our ANC members allowed themselves to be used by the opposition to fracture and weaken the ANC and destabilize our country," the party said in a statement. It did not say how and if it would discipline members who did not tow the party line. — AP

US EXPELS TWO CUBAN DIPLOMATS

WASHINGTON: The two-year-old US diplomatic relationship with Cuba was roiled Wednesday by what US officials believe was a string of bizarre incidents that left a group of American diplomats in Havana with severe hearing loss attributed to a covert sonic device. In the fall of 2016, a series of US diplomats began suffering unexplained losses of hearing, according to officials with knowledge of the investigation into the case. Several of the diplomats were recent arrivals at the embassy, which reopened in 2015 as part of former President Barack Obama's reestablishment of diplomatic relations with Cuba.

Some of the diplomats' symptoms were so severe that they were forced to cancel their tours early and return to the United States, officials said. After months

of investigation, US officials concluded that the diplomats had been exposed to an advanced device that operated outside the range of audible sound and had been deployed either inside or outside their residences. It was not immediately clear if the device was a weapon used in a deliberate attack, or had some other purpose. The US retaliated by expelling two Cuban diplomats from their embassy in Washington on May 23, State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said. US officials told The Associated Press that about five diplomats, several with spouses, had been affected and that no children had been involved. The FBI and Diplomatic Security Service are investigating. Cuba employs a state security apparatus that keeps untold numbers of people under surveillance and US diplo-

mats are among the most closely monitored people on the island. Like virtually all foreign diplomats in Cuba, the victims of the incidents lived in housing owned and maintained by the Cuban government.

However, officials familiar with the probe said that investigators were looking into the possibilities that the incidents were carried out by a third country such as Russia, possibly operating without the knowledge of Cuba's formal chain of command. The US officials weren't authorized to discuss the investigation publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. Cuban officials declined to comment on the incident. Nauert said that investigators did not yet have a definitive explanation for the incidents but stressed they take them "very seriously," as shown by the Cuban diplomats' expulsions. — AP

SCIENCE SAYS: TRUMP TEAM GARBLES ON CLIMATE SCIENCE

PAINTING AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT REALITY

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump and his cabinet often avoid talking about the science of climate change, but when pressed what they have said clashes with established mainstream science, data and peer-reviewed studies and reports. Even the federal government's own reports - including a draft science study for the National Climate Assessment obtained this week by The Associated Press and other media - paint an entirely different reality than what's coming from the Trump Administration.

Cooling and hoax

President Trump has not talked directly about the science since taking office, but on the Hugh Hewitt radio show in 2015 he said: "I'm not a believer in man-made global warming. It could be warming, and it's going to start to cool at some point. And you know, in the early, in the 1920s, people talked about global cooling." And in a now famous social media post, Trump tweeted in 2012: "The concept of global warming was created by and for the Chinese in order to make U.S. manufacturing non-competitive."

The usual talking point among non-scientists is that in the 1970s - not 1920s - experts thought the world was cooling. University of Georgia meteorology professor Marshall Shepherd calls this a "zombie myth" long disproven but somehow still sticking around. Scientists looked at peer-reviewed literature between 1965 and 1979 and found only seven papers talking about global cooling, 20 neutral and 44 implying global warming, according to a 2008 analysis in the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society.

On global warming being a hoax invented by the Chinese, the previous National Climate Assessment, NASA, EPA, the National Academy of Sciences and many other scientific organizations say otherwise. The American Institute of Physics in a historical timeline says the first calculation of global warming dates back to 1896 and a Swiss scientist and even earlier, in 1859, an Irish physicist noticed certain gases trap heat.

Role of humans, carbon dioxide

Key members of Trump's Cabinet have more recently questioned whether



A picture shows ice on a beach of the Jokulsarlon lagoon in the Austurland region in Iceland on taken on April 13, 2017. — AFP

carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases created by human activities are the primary cause for global warming. Energy Secretary Rick Perry testifying before the Senate Energy Committee in June said: "I did not think that CO2 was the primary knob that changes it. I don't. I think that there are some other naturally occurring events, the warming and the cooling of our ocean waters and some, you know, other activities that occur. I also said in the next breath that man's impact does, in fact, have an impact on the climate."

On CNBC in March, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt said, "I think that measuring with precision human activity on the climate is something very challenging to do and there's tremendous disagreement about the degree of impact, so no, I would not agree that it's a primary contributor to the global warming that we see."

NASA calls humanity's increase in greenhouse gas "the main cause of the global warming." The draft science report, echoing numerous previous scientific reports, precisely calculates the energy causing climate change since the industrial age. The amount of additional warming coming from human activity - mostly burning of coal, oil and gas - is more than 40 times stronger than changes in the

sun's heat. Nearly three-quarters of that human caused warming is from carbon dioxide, the Nobel Prize winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change said, citing "very high" confidence levels.

Modest warming

At a White House briefing in June, Pruitt quoted a New York Times opinion columnist, who is not a scientist, calling the warming that has already happened modest and belittling climate computer simulations. Pruitt said: "I would say that there are climate exaggerators. In fact, many of you - I don't know if you saw this article or not, but the Climate of Complete Certainty, by Bret Stephens, that was in the New York - the New York Times talked about-and I'll just read a quote, because I think it's a very important quote from this - from this article."

"Anyone who's read the 2014 report of the IPCC knows that, while the - while modest, 0.85 degrees Celsius, warming of the earth' has occurred since 1880. 'Much else that passes as accepted fact is really a matter of probabilities. That's especially true of the sophisticated, but fallible models and simulations by which scientists attempt to peer into the climate future. To say this isn't to deny science. Isn't to acknowledge it honestly.'" — AP

FREE-SPEECH DEBATE SWIRLS AS OFFICIALS BLOCK SOCIAL MEDIA

SALT LAKE CITY: An emerging debate about whether elected officials violate people's free speech rights by blocking them on social media is spreading across the US as groups sue or warn politicians to stop the practice. The American Civil Liberties Union this week sued Maine Gov. Paul LePage and sent warning letters to Utah's congressional delegation. It followed recent lawsuits against the governors of Maryland and Kentucky and President Donald Trump.

Trump's frequent and often unorthodox use of Twitter and allegations he blocks people with dissenting views has raised questions about what elected officials can and cannot do on their official social media pages. Politicians at all levels increasingly embrace social media to discuss government business, sometimes at the expense of traditional town halls or in-person meetings.

"People turn to social media because they see their elected officials as being available there and they're hungry for opportunities to express their opinions and share feedback," said Anna Thomas, spokeswoman for the ACLU of Utah. "That includes people who disagree with public officials." Most of the officials targeted so far - all Republicans - say they are not violating free speech but policing social media pages to get rid of people who post hateful, violent, obscene or abusive messages.

A spokeswoman for Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan called the Aug. 1 lawsuit against him "frivolous" and said his office has a clear policy and will "remove all hateful and violent content" and "coordinated spam attacks." The ACLU accused Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin of blocking more than 600 people on Facebook and Twitter. His office said he blocks people who post "obscene and abusive language or images, or repeated off-topic comments and spam."

Trolling the trolls

Spokesmen for Utah Sen Orrin Hatch and Rep. Mia Love, who were singled out by the ACLU, said people are rarely blocked and only after they have violated rules posted on their Facebook pages to prevent profanity, vulgarity, personal insults or obscene comments. "We are under no obligation to allow Senator Hatch's Facebook page to be used as a platform for offensive content or misinformation," spokesman Matt Whitlock said. Katie Fallow, senior staff attorney at Columbia University's Knight First Amendment Institute, which sued Trump last month, said there's no coordinated national effort to target Republicans. The goal is to establish that all elected officials - no matter the party - must stop blocking people on social media. "If it's mainly used to speak to and hear from constituents, that's a public forum and you can't pick and choose who you hear from," Fallow said.

Rob Anderson, chairman of Utah's Republican Party, scoffed at the notion that politicians are violating free-speech rights by weeding out people who post abusive content. "You own your Facebook page and if you want to block somebody or hide somebody, that's up to you," Anderson said. "Why else is there a tab that says hide or block?" Court decisions about how elected officials can and cannot use their accounts are still lacking in this new legal battleground, but rules for public forums side with free-speech advocates, said Erwin Chemerinsky, dean of the University of California-Berkeley Law School. For instance, lower court rulings say the government can't deny credentials to journalists because their reporting is critical, he said. — AP

S LANKA FM RESIGNS OVER ALLEGED SCANDAL

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's foreign minister resigned yesterday after being accused of possessing a luxury apartment paid for by a businessman investigated for shady treasury bond transactions. Ravi Karunanayake, who was the finance minister at the time the deals took place, denied the allegation but told Parliament that he is resigning from the Cabinet to "set an example" to others and protect the government. He said he would continue as a lawmaker.

He has previously said the apartment deal was handled by his family and he was unaware of its contents or parties involved. Although Karunanayake has not been charged, opposition lawmakers had been calling for his resignation over conflict of interest and ethical issues. In his statement to Parliament, Karunanayake said there was an attempt to destabilize the government using the allegations against him.

"I will not allow such a coup to topple our government. I resign with pride ... setting an example," he said. The businessman is being investigated by a presidential commission for allegedly having inside information about bond transactions with the Central Bank. President Maithripala Sirisena, who came into power promising to end corruption, has been under pressure to act against Karunanayake. A special commission of inquiry appointed by Sirisena is investigating allegations of corruption related to treasury bonds issued during the period from February 2015 to March 2016. Payment of the lease for Karunanayake's penthouse by the businessman surfaced during commission hearings. —AP

NEPAL STRENGTHENS LAWS AGAINST MENSTRUAL EXILE

KATHMANDU: Nepal's parliament has passed a bill toward making women safer by strengthening laws against acid attacks along with the ancient Hindu customs of demanding dowry payments for marriage and exiling women who are menstruating. The new law goes into effect in August 2018, with violators who force women into exile facing punishments of up to three months in jail or a fine of 3,000 Nepalese rupees, or about \$29.

Many menstruating women are still forced to leave their homes and take shelter in unhygienic or insecure huts or cow sheds until their cycle ends, though the practice - called Chhaupadi - was actually outlawed a decade ago. But without any assigned penalties, the custom continued in many parts of the majority Hindu Himalayan country, especially in the western hills. While exiled in isolation, some women face bitter cold or attacks by wild animals. Unclean conditions can also cause infections.

"People will be discouraged to follow this discriminatory custom due to fear of punishment" now that the new bill is passed, said lawmaker Krishna Bhakta Pokhrel from the committee that drafted the bill. But a female parliamentarian from the far-western district of Doti, where menstrual exile is still practiced, said the legislation passed Wednesday alone would not be enough, and the government should also invest in educating women on good hygiene.

"Fear of punishment will not stop people from following this custom who think women are impure during menstruation," Gauri Kumari Oli told the Associated Press on Thursday. "The government and non-governmental agencies should start to do more to raise awareness." She herself was made to observe the custom, albeit not so strictly, she said. "Like it happens elsewhere in Nepal, I was asked not to enter inside the temple or the kitchen," she said. "But I never had to go to sleep in shed." The legislation was part of an ongoing effort to improve the country's laws, and also criminalizes other deep-rooted customs that harm women, including slavery, acid attacks and the dowry system, by which a woman's family must secure her marriage prospects by paying the groom and his family. —AP



Survivors from both India and Pakistan, from left to right: Sohinder Nath Chopra in New Delhi; Mohammad Ishaq in Rawalpindi, Pakistan; Shamsul Nisa, in Srinagar, Indian controlled Kashmir; Krishen Khanna, in New Delhi; Shamim Uddin, in Karachi, Pakistan; Hira Gulrajani in New Delhi and Akhtari Begum in Lahore, Pakistan. — AP

REMEMBERING PARTITION: 70 YEARS SINCE THE DIVIDE OF INDIA-PAKISTAN

NEW DELHI: It's been 70 years since India and Pakistan were carved from the former British Empire as independent nations, a process that triggered one of the largest human migrations in history. Overnight, Hindu and Muslim neighbors became fearful of one another. Mob violence broke out, leaving hundreds of thousands dead. Some 12 million people fled their homes - including Hindus afraid they would not be welcome in the newly declared Islamic state of Pakistan, and Muslims worried they'd suffer at the hands of India's Hindu majority. Here, survivors from both India and Pakistan recall living through that uneasy time, and consider what it meant to the future of the two countries.

ONE EVENING EVERYTHING CHANGED

On Aug 14, 1947, the day of Pakistan's independence, groups of Muslims marched through villages wearing the country's newly created flags on their shoulders. For some, it was a time of celebration. For Sohinder Nath Chopra and his Hindu family, it was time to flee.

A Muslim cleric urged the family to leave their ancient village in what is now western Pakistan. A Christian servant accompanied them as a guard. "Our village had a family-type community," recalls 81-year-old Chopra, who was 12 at the time. "There was always something going on, and life in that village was very good."

Chopra's family moved through refugee camps on both sides of the border, eventually reaching the bustling Indian capital of New Delhi. Chopra and his three brothers immersed themselves in their schoolwork, with Chopra and his eldest brother earning scholarships for post-graduate studies in Canada.

When he returned to India in 1973, the country was struggling with social unrest and extreme poverty. In the decades of economic growth and reform that have followed, India became more economically and politically sta-

ble, while seeing its population more than double to 1.3 billion. Chopra believes the country's separation from Pakistan helped. "It was a blessing in disguise. Although in the first 10 years or so, we felt very bitter about it," he said. He still dreams of visiting his old family home, but lingering fears and turbulent India-Pakistan relations have kept him from making the journey. His wife tries to console him by saying that everything he remembers has probably changed.

NEIGHBORS LYNCHED, HOUSES SMOLDERING

Every hour there was rumor of another attack. One Sikh man lynched by rampaging mobs of Muslims, another hacked to death in his own home. Mohammad Ishaq's boyhood memories from Pakistan's first days are filled with these images of killing and destruction.

"That was the time of extreme fear. Then only the men stayed in their homes. The women and children were sent to safer places," he recalled. In the early evenings, a silence would settle over his neighborhood in the old, congested city of Rawalpindi as no one dared to leave their homes. In the morning, they'd find other houses burnt, smoldering.

Ishaq remembers mobs attacking three large houses belonging to wealthy Sikh families, whom many in the Muslim majority neighborhood resented. They ravaged and robbed the homes. They stabbed and hacked one homeowner to death. His body lay in the street for days. "When I first saw the body, I turned pale and I was so scared that I didn't dare come out of my home for many days," Ishaq said.

He said poor Muslims were in the majority in his neighborhood, and both feared and envied their wealthy Sikh and Hindu neighbors. The creation of Pakistan as its own Islamic republic offered opportunities they otherwise wouldn't have had, he said. Today, he sees Pakistan's biggest handicap as its rapid population

growth, from about 45 million in 1960 to about 200 million today. "The population continues to increase, and resources decrease, and it is because of this that as a country we could not achieve great progress," he said.

A FAMILY MASSACRED

Shamsul Nisa was 10 when she watched her Muslim father, grandfather and six uncles killed by Hindu mobs in Udampur, a southern town in the disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir. "Our homes and our lives were destroyed. We were suddenly turned into beggars," said Nisa, 80. She had escaped along with her mother and four brothers, and the family settled in Muslim-majority Srinagar, the main city on the Indian-controlled side of the still-divided territory.

India and Pakistan have fought two of their three wars over control of Kashmir. Today, they each administer part of it, separated by a heavily militarized line of control. A third, smaller portion is controlled by China. In the chaos of those first days, when ancient principalities were pledging to join one of the two nations, Kashmir's final status was by no means certain. The Muslim majority rose up repeatedly against the Hindu Maharaja and his plans to remain independent. Pakistani tribesmen raided in an effort to wrest control; India marched troops into the region with a promise to keep the peace and to hold a referendum. Tens of thousands of Muslims were slaughtered by Hindu mobs in the southern Jammu region, while hundreds of thousands more were driven from their homes to Pakistan or Pakistani-controlled Kashmir.

Until Partition, "Kashmir was not divided," Nisa said. "But whosoever could, grabbed and occupied parts of it." Nisa eventually became a teacher, got married and had three daughters and a son. Since the recent death of her husband, she remains with her son. "I can't stay alone" since those violent days in 1947, she said.—AP



SICHUAN: In this photo taken Wednesday Aug 09, 2017, medical staff tend to victims of an earthquake at a overcrowded hospital in Jiuzhaigou county. —AP

CHINA REPORTS NO COLLAPSES FOLLOWING POWERFUL QUAKE

BEIJING: Chinese monitors say they've detected multiple landslides but no major building collapses following a powerful earthquake in the country's mountainous southwest that killed at least 19 people. The Institute of Remote Sensing and Digital Earth under the Chinese Academy of Sciences drew the conclusion from satellite imagery collected after the magnitude 6.5 quake struck Tuesday night, the official Xinhua News Agency and state broadcaster CCTV said yesterday.

Another 343 people were injured, dozens seriously, by the temblor, which China's earthquake monitoring agency measured at magnitude 7.0, higher than the figure given by the US Geological Survey. At least six of those killed were tourists, two were local residents, and the rest remain unidentified, according to state

radio. More than 60,000 people have been evacuated from the area amid continuing aftershocks, it said.

A Canadian woman suffered a slight head injury and a French citizen was wounded in both legs and needed surgery to remove stone fragments, according to Xinhua. Most of the deaths and injuries were recorded in Zhangzha township, near Jiuzhaigou national park in Sichuan province that is listed by UNESCO as a world heritage site.

The quake knocked out electricity and sent boulders tumbling down steep mountainsides onto blocked roads, while Xinhua said its photographers on the scene reported extensive damage to scenic sites which include lakes, spectacular waterfalls and karst formations. The speed of the rescue effort appeared due in part to improve-

ments to emergency response preparations enacted after the Aba Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture that includes Jiuzhaigou was struck by a massive 2008 earthquake that killed nearly 90,000 people.

The US Geological Survey measured the quake at magnitude 6.5 and said it struck at a depth of just 9 kilometers. Shallow earthquakes tend to cause more damage than deeper ones. On Wednesday morning, another strong earthquake struck far northwestern China, some 2,200 kilometers from Jiuzhaigou, injuring 32 people, two of them seriously, and damaging more than 1,000 houses. That quake was measured at 6.3 by the USGS and struck in a sparsely populated area of the Xinjiang region near the Kazakhstan border. CCTV said 10,500 people had been moved from damaged buildings to emergency shelters. —AP

US WARSHIP SAILS CLOSE TO CHINA-HELD ISLAND

MANILA: A US warship sailed close to a Chinese man-made island in the disputed South China Sea in an operation that challenged China's excessive territorial claims in busy international waters, a US Navy official said yesterday. The official told The Associated Press that Chinese vessels were in the vicinity when the USS John S McCain sailed in a "routine" freedom of navigation operation near Mischief Reef yesterday. It was not immediately clear if the Chinese demanded the U.S. destroyer leave as they have done in the past. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the official was not authorized to speak to the press about the matter.

China, which claims the South China Sea virtually in entirety, has protested such U.S.

military operations, which President Donald Trump's administration has continued partly to reassure allies locked in territorial rifts with Beijing. Tensions escalated a few years ago when China began to build seven reefs, including Mischief, into islands, including three with runways, which the U.S. and China's neighbors fear could be used to project Beijing's military might and potentially obstruct freedom of navigation.

The US is not involved in the long-seething disputes in the busy and potentially oil- and gas-rich waters involving China, Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam. Washington, however, has declared it is in its interest to ensure that the conflicts are resolved peacefully and that freedom of

navigation and overflight remain unhampered. In the latest sail-by, US military officials notified Philippine counterparts of the maneuver, a Philippine official told the AP, adding Filipino forces were not involved. Philippine marines stationed in a marooned ship on a disputed shoal may have monitored the US Navy operation because they are based near Mischief Reef, the official said. US Pacific Fleet spokeswoman Lt Cmdr. Nicole Schwegman said all Navy operations "are conducted in accordance with international law and demonstrate that the United States will fly, sail, and operate wherever international law allows." "That is true in the South China Sea as in other places around the globe," she said. —AP

NEW CHALLENGE FILED IN COURT TO AUSTRALIAN GAY MARRIAGE VOTE

CANBERRA: Gay-rights advocates filed a court challenge yesterday to the government's unusual plan to canvass Australians' opinion on gay marriage next month, while a retired judge said he would boycott the survey as unacceptable. The mail ballot is not binding, but the conservative government won't legislate the issue without it. If most Australians say "no," the government won't allow Parliament to consider lifting the nation's ban on same-sex marriage.

Lawyers for independent lawmaker Andrew Wilkie and marriage equality advocates Shelley Argent and Felicity Marlowe, applied to the High Court for an injunction that would prevent the so-called postal plebiscite from going ahead. "We will be arguing that by going ahead without the authorization of Parliament, the government is acting beyond its power," lawyer Jonathon Hunyor said. Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said the government had legal advice that the postal ballot would withstand a court challenge.

'Unscientific polling'

"I encourage every Australian to exercise their right to vote on this matter. It's an important question," Turnbull said. Gay-rights advocates and many lawmakers want Parliament to legislate marriage equality now without an opinion poll, which they see as an unjustifiable hurdle to reform. Retired High Court judge Michael Kirby, a gay man who supports marriage equality, dismissed the ballot as "irregular and unscientific polling."

"It's just something we've never done in our constitutional arrangements of Australia, and it really is unacceptable," Kirby told Australian Broadcasting Corp. Kirby would not comment on the legality of the government proceeding with the 122 million Australian dollar (\$96 million) ballot without Parliament's approval, but said: "I'm not going to take any part in it whatsoever." Plebiscites in Australia are referendums that don't deal with questions that change the constitution. Voting at referendums is compulsory to ensure a high voter turnout and that the legally-binding result reflects the wishes of a majority of Australians.

The government opted for Australia's first-ever voluntary postal plebiscite after the Senate twice rejected AU\$135 million funding for a conventional plebiscite, in which votes are cast in ballot boxes. Pollster Martin O'Shannessy said a market researcher would be able to provide a more accurate picture of Australians' attitudes toward gay marriage through telephone polling for less than \$AU1.2 million. —AP



SYDNEY: Jonathon Hunyor, right, CEO of the Public Interest Advocacy Centre speaks in front of the law courts after lodging an application in the High Court for an injunction to prevent a vote on gay marriage through a non-binding ballot by mail. —AP



SEOUL: People pass by a mock Scud-B missile of North Korea, left, and other South Korean missiles on display at Korea War Memorial Museum. —AP

N KOREA HAS NO INTEREST IN TALKING TO THE SOUTH

SEOUL WILL HAVE LITTLE LUCK BUILDING BRIDGES

SEOUL: With liberals back in charge in South Korea, Seoul is making peace offerings to its archrivals, but the North isn't biting. South Korean President Moon Jae-in believes the best way to solve the North Korean nuclear crisis is engagement of the sort that two past liberal leaders used to win historic summits with Pyongyang. The problem, as clearly demonstrated during the last several chaotic days, is that North Korea doesn't want to talk.

Instead, it has been testing missiles at an unprecedented pace and threatening to launch some of those toward Guam. Pyongyang may be looking to eventually use the existence of its nuclear weapons to negotiate a peace treaty with the United States to officially end the 1950-53 Korean War and remove US troops from the South. Until, and unless, that happens, Seoul probably will have little luck building bridges. This puts Moon in a bind, forcing him right when his inclination is to go left.

'Sunshine' policy

The Koreans last held formal talks in December 2015. Since then, North Korea has conducted a torrent of missile tests and two nuclear tests, boosting its efforts to make nuclear weapons small enough to fit on long-range missiles. Moon, who took office in May, made his most ambitious plea for engagement two days after North Korea test-launched its first intercontinental ballistic missile last month.

In a July 6 speech in Berlin, Moon vowed to build on the legacies of late liberal leaders Kim Dae-jung and Roh Moo-hyun and their so-called "Sunshine Policy." Seoul's economic inducements resulted in two historic summit meetings and temporary rapprochement between the Koreans in

the 2000s. Moon said the Koreans should start off with "easy" subjects. He proposed talks for reducing animosities across their heavily armed border and a resumption of meetings between aging relatives separated by war. He invited the North to participate in next year's Winter Olympics, which South Korea is hosting. And he proposed ambitious longer-term projects, such as reconnecting an inter-Korean railway and building a gas pipeline connecting the Koreans with Russia.

Moon said he wasn't offering unconditional cooperation. He condemned the ICBM launch and said the North could guarantee its security only through "complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization." He said he was willing to meet with North Korean ruler Kim Jong Un, but only under the right conditions. The North Korean response was blunt. It ridiculed his comments, ignored his proposals and conducted its second ICBM test on July 28.

Eyes on Washington

Reopening dialogue with Pyongyang is crucial for Moon, who says the South should take the lead when it comes to solving the North Korean nuclear problem. But analysts say the ICBM tests show that Pyongyang is focused on Washington and uninterested in what Seoul brings to the table.

Pyongyang needs more tests before it can produce a fully functional ICBM. It seeks a real nuclear deterrent to undermine the alliance between Washington and Seoul and eventually force the United States into negotiations for a peace treaty to formally end the Korean War, which was stopped by an armistice.

North Korea wants an end to annual military drills between the United States

and South Korea that it condemns as invasion rehearsals, and the removal of tens of thousands of US troops stationed in the South. It will also be looking to breathe new life into an economy hammered by years of heavy international sanctions, and to find more markets for its cheap products and labor. These clearly are of greater significance to Pyongyang than anything Seoul can provide.

'One-sided love affair?'

Moon has harshly criticized the hard-line policies under a decade of conservative rule in Seoul, which he says did nothing to stop Pyongyang's weapons advancements and only diminished Seoul's voice in dealing with its rival. But North Korean intransigence may leave Moon in the same policy rut as his predecessor, Park Geun-hye, who also initially vowed more flexibility.

Following the North's second ICBM test, Moon took a hard line, ordering his military to schedule talks with Washington on allowing heavier warheads for South Korean missiles and to work with US military commanders on adding launchers to a US missile-defense system based in South Korea.

South Korea's conservatives want still more sanctions and pressure; they call his pleas for talks a "one-sided love affair." Hong Min, an analyst at Seoul's Korea Institute for National Unification, said there's still a chance that Pyongyang could eventually accept Seoul's proposals for talks if recently strengthened UN sanctions are applied effectively in coming months. But, he said, "it's critical that Seoul move with the international society to search for solutions, instead of approaching it as a matter of who gets to lead." —AP

GUAM'S RESIDENTS FEEL US PATRIOTISM AND CONCERN

HAGATNA: The tiny US territory of Guam feels a strong sense of patriotism and confidence in the American military, which has an enormous presence on the Pacific island. But residents are increasingly worried over Washington's escalating war of words with North Korea. The people of Guam woke up yesterday to another pointed threat from Pyongyang, which vowed to complete a plan to attack waters near the island by mid-August - adding a timeline to a threat from a day earlier that North Korea would create an "enveloping fire" around Guam. Like other US territories, Guam has a sometimes complicated relationship with the US mainland but many across the island say despite the threats and concerns they feel reassured and protected by the military - especially in times of tense, geopolitical sparring. The American military presence on Guam consists of two bases - Andersen Air Force Base in the north and Naval Base Guam in the south - which are home to 7,000 US troops.

Crucial hub

"I feel that the presence of the military on Guam will help us a lot," said Virgie Matson, 51, a resident of Dededo, Guam's most populated village. "They are here to protect the islands, just in case something happens." The possibility of a nuclear confrontation is considered remote but international alarm has been escalating in recent days. In the latest development, Gen Kim Rak Gyom, who heads North Korea's rocket command, said in a statement carried by state media that his country was "about to take" military action near Guam. He said the North would finalize a plan by mid-August to fire four mid-range missiles hitting waters 30 to 40 kilometers away from the island.

It's not the first time North Korea has threatened Guam, which is a crucial, strategic hub for US forces in the Pacific. Andersen Air Force Base houses a Navy helicopter squadron and Air Force bombers that rotate to Guam from the US mainland, including the B-2 stealth bomber, B-1 and B-52. Their location in a US territory means its military is just hours from potential flashpoints in the western Pacific.

Naval Base Guam is an important outpost for US fast-attack nuclear powered submarines that are a key means for gathering intelligence in the region, including off the Korean peninsula and in the South China Sea where China has been building military bases on man-made islands that have stirred tension across Asia.

The US military has said it plans to increase its presence on Guam and will move thousands of US Marines currently stationed in Japan to the island between 2024 and 2028. "I'm pro military buildup," said resident Gus Aflague, 60, whose grandfather and brother both joined the US Navy. "North Korea has always threatened other countries. They threatened US, other countries, and they threaten Guam. It's a propaganda, that's how I feel," he said but added that the military offered an extra reassurance. "I feel safe with our military presence here - Andersen and the Navy."

Shady history

There's a sense of patriotism among those who cite the island's history of Guam residents serving in the US military. The US took control of Guam in 1898, when Spanish authorities surrendered to the US Navy. During the Vietnam War, the Air Force sent 155 B-52 bombers to Guam to hit targets in Southeast Asia. Guam was also a refueling and transfer spot for people heading to Southeast Asia, and many refugees fleeing Saigon were evacuated through Guam. But there's also some resentment about not being able to vote in the general election for US president.

Guamanians have served in all major US wars since World War II and see military service as a source of pride. A huge red, white and blue ribbon is outside the airport terminal. Resident Isaac Camacho, 19, says he feels Guam's relationship with the US mainland is "a little misunderstood on their part." "They believe that we are not true US citizens, when we do have plenty of Chamorro people going into the US military and serving for their country and dying for their country," he said. Chamorros are the indigenous people of Guam. "And not a lot of Americans know that."

Guam is about 2,100 miles southeast of Pyongyang and 3,800 miles west of Honolulu in the Pacific Ocean. For years, North Korea has claimed Guam is within its missiles' striking distance, making furious statements each time when the US flew powerful bombers from the island's air base to the Korean Peninsula. —AP

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Kate Beckinsale attends 'The Only Living Boy in New York' premiere at the Museum of Modern Art on Monday in New York. —AP

Soundgarden singer Chris Cornell dies at age 52 in Detroit



It is all about your mind set

By The Real Fouz

The last few years that I've been in social media have taught me so many valuable lessons, not about the world around me but also about myself. It's already hard living in a world filled with criticism, but when you're living in the public eye, the critics and judgment only get much worse and much more harsh. Building up your confidence and having thick skin is the only way to survive in an industry like this one and its life changing how boosting your confidence and self esteem can improve your overall quality of life. My supporters have been my number one motivators, so now it's my turn to motivate you guys and share this message to you all!

It all starts with learning to love and appreciate yourself for who you are- flaws and all. It's about acknowledging your strengths and weaknesses and accepting and understanding yourself. Sometimes it is easier said than done. In the society we live in, we put so much pressure on ourselves to be "perfect" and we are constantly comparing ourselves to the people around us.

These bad habits are hard to break for a lot of people especially young girls growing up, but there are steps that you can take to feel better about yourself starting with thinking about what is effecting your self esteem and knowing that you have the right to feel good about who you are no matter what.

Avoid the negative self-talk and the habit of automatically putting yourself down and ask yourself "would I talk or think about a loved one in such a negative way?" We usually criticize ourselves in ways we wouldn't dream of doing to others. Start getting into the habit of thinking and saying positive things about yourself until you break that bad habit into a positive healthy one.

Another thing is to start connecting with the people who truly love you instead of spending time with people who treat you badly or put you down. There are people that will inspire you to be a better person, provide you with motivation to achieve your goals, empower you, and cheer you on when you succeed. these are the type of people you need in your life and you will notice that you become what you surround yourself with.

My last advise for building your confidence and self-esteem is to set yourself challenges. Find something that you are passionate about or love doing and make time to do more of it. When you set small goals and start achieving them, it can make you feel so much more positive about yourself. It's all about reminding yourself that you are good at something and you can achieve the things that you put your mind to.

Its really all about your mind set which YOU control and does not control you. We all deserve to live a life filled with happiness, confidence, and self-love. Don't ever take that away from yourself and even more importantly don't let anyone or anything take that away from you.

Afghan boy known as 'Little Picasso' shows works in Serbia

'We all need kindness'

A 10-year-old migrant from Afghanistan, who has been nicknamed "Little Picasso," is using his first ever exhibition to help another boy in need. Farhad Nouri's drawings and photographs were put on display Wednesday in what was also his charity event to raise money for a Serbian boy recovering from brain tumor surgery. "Thank you all for coming here!" Nouri told dozens of visitors as he opened the exhibition organized with the help of aid groups and supported by Serbia's government.

Among Nouri's works exhibited in the garden of a Belgrade cafe were his drawings of Pablo Picasso, Salvador Dali and Harry Potter. Nouri's photographs mostly include scenes from Belgrade, where the boy and his family have been living for the past eight months in a crowded migrant camp. "I am very happy and excited," he said. "This is the first time something like this is happening to me."

The family is among several thousand migrants who have been stranded in Serbia after fleeing war and poverty in their homelands. They have been unable to move on toward the European Union, which has sought to curb the influx of migrants. Ivan Miskovic, from the Serbian government's refugee agency, said at the opening of Nouri's exhibition that children account for about 40 percent of 4,500 migrants currently in Serbia.

"They are the most vulnerable among the migrant population," Miskovic said. Nouri and his family left their home in Afghanistan two years ago. Upon his arrival in Serbia, Nouri joined art classes organized by aid groups and his talent soon became a sensation, turning him into a local celebrity. "His talent is truly exceptional," Miskovic said. Anita Milev, from the Refugee Foundation group, said the exhibition was meant "to show the retrospective of what he (Nouri) has achieved during the classes."

Milev explained that the charity money for the sick Serbian boy is being raised through donations and by selling Nouri's photographs and copies of his drawings. Nouri, who is dreaming of one day moving to Switzerland to become a painter and a photographer, said he wanted to help someone else as well to show how important it is to be good to other people. Wearing a straw hat and sunglasses on a hot summer afternoon, Nouri carried out an old guitar that served as a box for donations for the sick Serbian boy. "We all need kindness," he said. — AP



Farhad Nouri, center, observes his drawings on display at an art exhibition in Belgrade, Serbia. — AP photos



Farhad Nouri observes his drawings on display at an art exhibition in Belgrade.



Farhad Nouri, center, signs copies of his work at an art exhibition in Belgrade.



Ricky Martin, left, a cast member in the FX series 'The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story,' answers a reporter's question as fellow cast members Darren Criss, center, and Edgar Martinez look on during the 2017 Television Critics Association Summer Press Tour.



Billie Lourd, left, Alison Pill, center, and Sarah Paulson, cast members in the FX series 'American Horror Story,' take part in a panel discussion on the show at the 2017 Television Critics Association Summer Press Tour.



John Landgraf, CEO of FX Networks and FX Productions, participates in the executive panel during the FX Television Critics Association Summer Press Tour. — AP photos

Ricky Martin defends Versace murder drama as respectful

A roundup of news from the closing day of the Television Critics Association summer meeting, at which TV networks and streaming services presented details on upcoming programs.

Killing Versace

Ricky Martin said he reassured Gianni Versace's longtime partner Antonio D'Amico that the pair will be treated respectfully in a TV drama about Versace's 1997 murder. "I'll make sure people fall in love with your relationship with Gianni," Martin, who plays D'Amico in FX's "The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story," recounted telling him. Martin said he spoke by phone Wednesday to D'Amico after he had publicly criticized the series for what he called inaccuracies. It's in production and set to air in January.

Executive producer Ryan Murphy, taking part in a panel discussion Wednesday with Martin and others working on the project, said D'Amico may have been judging it based on a paparazzi photo snapped during filming outside Versace's Miami Beach mansion. It's where the famed fashion designer was shot by serial killer Andrew Cunanan. But Murphy said the series is a drama and not a documentary, adding, "you have to be respectful but make it your own." It's part of his "American Crime Story" anthology that began with the Emmy-winning "The People v. O.J. Simpson."

Peaks and valleys

The peak TV era of expanding programming choices is at risk of moving into an ominous state of monopoly, FX Networks CEO John Landgraf said. Viewers and those who make shows could be the ultimate losers, he said. "I don't want artists to find themselves in a situation where there's only two buyers that matter," Landgraf told a TV critics' meeting Wednesday. Painting a dark picture of the broader US economy, he argued that it's beset by a lack of market regulation that has allowed "one sector after another to be swallowed by a single company or a tiny handful of companies," from airlines to retail to social media.

FX Networks and others are in a battle with newcomers including Netflix, Amazon and Apple TV that operate under an economic model that rewards increasing the scale of domination over current profits, Landgraf said.

Mum's the word

The women of "American Horror Story: Cult" came to Fox Studios promote the new season for an audience of television critics Wednesday, but they couldn't actually say anything about the show. Stars Sarah Paulson, Alison Pill, Leslie Grossman, Adina Porter and Billie Lourd gave vague answers to critics' questions and apologized for saying so little. The actresses appeared alongside makeup artist Eryn Krueger Mekash, costume designer Lou Eyrich and executive pro-



Eryn Krueger Mekash, makeup artist for the television series 'American Horror Story,' answers a question during a panel discussion.

ducer Alexis Martin Woodall. Here's what they could reveal: "Cult" involves a lesbian marriage, a broadcast journalist and what Woodall described as "an exciting trip to the grocery store."

"As with all good horror and suspense, know-

ing less is actually so much more because it's going to unfold for you," she said. Though show creator Ryan Murphy has said "Cult" was inspired by the election of President Donald Trump, Woodall said the seventh self-contained installment in the "American Horror Story" anthology "is more about the world around us." "This particular season has a streak of paranoia that I think is infectious," said Pill.

Louis 'Louie'

Louis C.K. says if he resumes his FX comedy series it won't be the same because he's changed. The comedian told a TV critics' meeting Wednesday that he's no longer the guy with the "stained black T-shirt" he portrayed on "Louie," who was grappling with life and his career. FX Networks CEO John Landgraf said that the show likely would reflect C.K.'s success, which includes producing the FX series "Baskets" and "Better Things." But Landgraf refrained from predicting the fate of "Louie." He said it's possible there will never be another season or, conversely, multiple seasons over 30 years. The last season of "Louie," its fifth, aired in 2015. — AP

Bruce Springsteen plans a series of Broadway fall concerts

The Boss is coming to Broadway - but he's ditching the E Street Band. Bruce Springsteen said yesterday on his website that he plans to make his Broadway debut onstage this fall at the Walter Kerr Theatre in a solo show in which he performs songs from his career, interspersed with readings of his best-selling memoir "Born to Run." "Springsteen on Broadway" begins previews Oct 3 ahead of an Oct 12 opening at the intimate 960-seat venue. The eight-week run is expected to play through Nov 26. Springsteen will perform five shows a week.

"I wanted to do some shows that were as personal and as intimate as possible," the Rock and Roll Hall of Famer said in a statement. "My show is just me, the guitar, the piano and the words and music. Some of the show is spoken, some of it is sung. It loosely follows the arc of my life and my work." The 67-year-old singer-songwriter becomes the latest and biggest

artist in years to book a Broadway concert, a list that includes Il Divo, Barry Manilow, Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons and The Rascals.

For Broadway theater owners, offering an empty venue to a band with a huge fan base offers a way to make money between scheduled musicals or plays. For Springsteen, who has played everything from Red Rocks in Colorado to Madison Square Garden in New York City, it offers another notch on the "Born to Run" singer's resume. In Springsteen's new book, he reveals that his first marriage - to Julianne Phillips - caused him mental anguish; that he had surgery for cervical-disc problems on the left side of his neck; and that he was depressed earlier in his 60s. — AP



In this file photo Bruce Springsteen performs during a Hillary Clinton campaign event at Independence Mall in Philadelphia. — AP



This photo provided by West Elm shows extra-long fringe which creates a saucy skirt for a triangle-patterned Indian cotton pouf from West Elm. — AP photos



This photo provided by Target shows table runners by designer Nate Berkus for Target.

A fresh take on shaggy-chic fringed decor



This photo provided by Urban Outfitters shows a Moroccan-inspired pouf from Urban Outfitters which sports a shaggy trim, sequins and a geometric motif.

Like coquettish long eyelashes or chic bangs, fringe has a beguiling style that draws it every so often back into the trend orbit. Now is one of those times in fashion and home decor, thanks perhaps to our current flirtation with eclecticism and our ongoing love affair with the retro '70s.

You'll see many variations on fringe. Wispy bits softening the edges of textiles; thick hedgerows accentuating the lines of a rug or basket; longer curtains of fringe that make a piece of art or furniture that much more intriguing. Urban Outfitters, for instance, has a Moroccan pouf covered in creamy cotton, with sequined trim and several wraps of woolly fringe. There's a bolster that marries pompoms, tassels, fringe and geometric embroidery. A wall hanging from India combines several clusters of fringe in a palette of blush, cream, apricot and gray. For the bedroom, a soft cotton comforter, in charcoal, rose, tan or cream has rows and rows of dainty eyelash fringe. There's a throw blanket and pillow shams with the decorative trim, too.

Designer Nate Berkus has added fringe to several collections he's done for Target, including lampshades and a diminutive stool. This season, there are fringed table runners and throw pillows, and a little basket with a dapper fringe belt

made of lampakanay, a Philippine fiber. "Fringe is one of my favorite embellishments," says Berkus. "It always seems luxe to me." Extra-long fringe creates a saucy skirt on a handwoven, black-and-white triangle pouf at West Elm. A Moroccan-inspired shag rug in black and gray with a sapphire streak and fringed edges brings drama to the floor. And a cotton bedspread with a Peruvian-inspired circle print is bordered with a thick fringe that punctuates the print.

At Toronto design house Elte, a Belgian linen pouf is dressed up with bone buttons and Tibetan wool fringe. From Arhaus' Boho pillow collection, there's a woven lumbar pillow trimmed in black or ivory fringe in a contemporary yet playful motif. And if you're ready for something a little more dramatic on the fringe front, consider designer Laura Kirar's Guernica lounge chair. The chair's back is dressed in a full mane of black or brown leather fringe. Smooth and textured laces are needled and knotted into 3,500 holes on the cane back, and the effect is spectacular. "I love that it's strong and opinionated," says Kirar. — AP



This photo provided by Target shows a basket by designer Nate Berkus for Target.



This photo provided by Urban Outfitters shows pompoms, tassels and fringe which embellish this pretty throw pillow from Urban Outfitters.

Kids' bedroom oases should reflect their personalities



These photos show the inside of Isaiah Daniel's bedroom which he designed with interior designer Kelee Katillac. — AP photos

Parents, do you want your kids' bedrooms to be relaxing oases where they can decompress and escape the academic and social pressures of school? Don't assume that means muted colors and quiet sanctuary. Instead, designers say, let the room reflect your child's personality, even if that involves some more vibrant colors and patterns. "Many parents find that hot pink walls are better than hot pink hair, right? And it's only a bucket of paint.

Such a space allows kids to be themselves, and that is a calming thing in today's world," said interior designer Kelee Katillac, who enjoys designing children's rooms and runs a studio in Kansas City, Missouri. She and other designers recommend working with kids to create an organized, multi-functional and comfortable bedroom with an interesting color palette.

What's the room for?

A first step to creating a great space for kids is defining what purposes the room must serve, Katillac said. Most kids do more than sleep in their rooms. They play, do homework and entertain friends there. Delineate a place for each of the room's main functions, she said. If a child intends to study in the room, supply a desk, chair and good lighting. Create a reading nook for the bookworm. For the kid who likes to have friends over, provide a seating area - even if it's just cushions and a rug - and have mood lighting or even decorative string lighting. Defining separate areas helps kids relax because it creates a sense of structure, Katillac said.

Finding the right colors

Wall color can impact your mood, said Sue Wadden of Sherwin-Williams in Cleveland. She recommends avoiding primary colors in favor of more natural or neutral tones like greens, browns, light grays or soft blues. "It's easier on the eye," she said. "It's easier on the brain."

To promote relaxation, consider using softer or less saturated versions of the bright colors typically used in kids' rooms, she added. If you're concerned that your child's color choices could get too bold, pick several colors you could live with and let them select from those, Wadden suggested. You can also use other elements to add the pops of color that kids crave. Consider painting a colorful accent wall, or adding a vibrant rug or patterned comforter. "Bring in brighter tones with secondary pieces," Wadden said.

Bring in their interests

Let your child help choose the room's theme, said Janet Paik, an

editor with the online interior decorating website Houzz.com. "If you want it to feel like their personal sanctuary, it needs to be their own space," she said. It can be easy and inexpensive to incorporate a favorite hobby, sports team or activity into the room.

Decals, bedding, artwork and accessories can highlight a child's interests, and are easy to change out as they get older, said Melisa White of Melisa White Interiors in New York. Writable surfaces such as chalkboard paint or large marker boards also let kids customize their room.

Everything in its place

Provide bins, shelving and storage that children can reach to take out and put away their things, White said. Everyone enjoys a tidy room: "Clutter can cause anxiety, although children may not understand that," she said. An organized room will help children relax, agreed Heather Turgeon, co-author of "The Happy Sleeper: The Science-Backed Guide to Helping Your Baby Get a Good Night's Sleep - Newborn to School Age" (TarcherPerigee, 2014). "A lot of clutter and toys can keep kids' minds activated, the same way having an office desk in your room or a pile of stressful papers beside your bed might do for you," said Turgeon, a psychotherapist.

Surround kids with what they love

Consider including a shelf or bulletin board where kids can display items important to them, she said. When Katillac was working with a teenager who collects shoes, she put in shelving where he could set out some of his favorite pairs. That not only kept things orderly; it created a meaningful vignette in the room. "Kids are very vocal about the things they like," Katillac said. "Look at their interests and see if you can turn it into a piece of artwork."

Monitoring screens

Ideally, the room should be media-free at bedtime, Turgeon said. Create a communal charging station where the entire family charges electronics someplace other than bedrooms, she suggests. "Have everybody say good night to their devices at least an hour before bedtime," she said. If children keep a computer in their room, try to separate it visually from the sleep space with a bookshelf, curtain or another creative design idea. — AP

Dorm decor gets serious

When Young Huh left for college in the 1980s, she brought "one giant poster of The Cure, bedding from the local bed-and-bath store and maybe some desk accessories." Like so many Gen-Xers, her one creative touch was asking a supermarket for leftover milk crates to use as bookshelves. Now an interior designer, she has helped her own children decorate their dorm rooms, and she's amazed at the design expectations among college students. "It's a level of decorating that did not even exist in my world view when I was in school," Huh says.

Today, there are lots of products "that cater entirely to the college crowd," she says. Interior designer Jon Call sees the same phenomenon: While his main business is designing luxury homes in Manhattan, he also gets asked to design college living spaces. "This new generation has grown up under the influence of home magazines, HGTV and the virtues of 'democratic design.' They understand the value of creating unique spaces for themselves," he says. They want their dorm rooms "not only to function, but also to reflect who they are."

We've asked Huh, Call and small-space design expert Theodore Leaf, host of the Design Network series "Living Big in Under 1,000 Sq. Ft.," for advice on infusing a college dorm room with style and personality, while keeping budget and function in mind.

Choose your vision

As with any design project, Huh recommends beginning with an overall vision for the space. "Is it all one color and soothing? Is it ethnic eclectic? Are you going for pink extravaganza? Clip some pictures or start a Pinterest page," she says. Then, choose a focal point for the room, something you would like to see every day. "It could be your bed with an oversize art work or a fun suzani wall hanging over it," Huh says. "Having something over-scaled or very interesting to look at distracts the eye and makes you forget the size of the space."

If your focal point includes saturated, dramatic color, it will also help disguise the fact that a room is small. "This could be a red bed in an otherwise neutral room," Call explains. "It allows the eye to focus on one thing and the defining walls to disappear." Call also suggests adding a beautiful headboard to the existing bedframe, elevating the

look of basic dorm furniture. Another trick: Keep your color scheme to just three colors to help make a small space feel bigger, and "focus on fewer pieces of furniture at a larger scale," Call says.

Small-space specialties

Leaf says the few furniture pieces you bring should do double-duty, such as a storage ottoman large enough to function as a mini coffee table or as seating. Call agrees: "Your end table may have a drawer that is outfitted with chargers and cords to make it an electronics station. Your bed could have bolsters on it to convert it into a daybed for additional seating." Huh suggests adding a loft to lift the bed, or at least adding risers to create under-bed storage space.

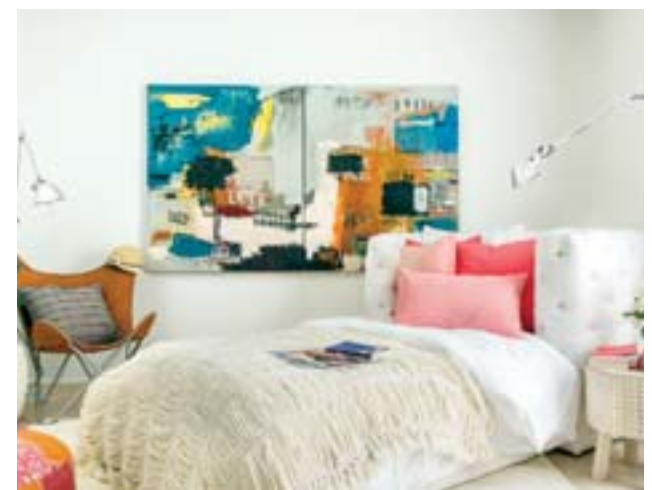
You can also use window draperies to make the room seem larger. Dorm rooms often come with vertical blinds, Leaf says, and you can transform the look by adding inexpensive sheer curtains hung high on a tension rod over the blinds. To make it even more dramatic, use a larger rod (even a tension rod made for a shower curtain) and run the sheers across an entire wall.

Personal touches

A colorful rug is an easy way to add style and warmth. Temporary wallpaper also can make a dorm feel less institutional. Candles (or artificial candles, for safety) can make a room feel "a little bit more tucked in," Leaf says. And an oil diffuser is great for scenting the space.

Lighting is another powerful room-changer: Instead of living with harsh fluorescent lights, Leaf suggests gathering a few hand-me-down lamps from parents or grandparents, and changing the lamp shades if you don't like them. Dimmers make a difference, too: You can use technology like Philips' Hue bulbs, which are controlled via an app, or simply bring plug-in dimmers.

Lastly, says Huh: "Fairy lights are de rigueur dorm decor." And don't forget personal items from home. "Anything that you can bring from home will make a dorm room feel more personal and comfortable," Huh says. "A favorite mug and something you love from your room at home should also come with you to school." — AP



These photos provided by Mr Call Designs show dorm rooms designed by interior designer Jon Call. — AP photos

COOKING ON DEADLINE:

Honey Creole Mustard Green Beans



By KATIE WORKMAN

And then that moment of summer arrives when the green beans are piled so high at the markets, and being sold at such a low price, that you feel like you'd be a fool not to pick up a pound or two or five. I mean they are practically giving them away for free. (And if you have a garden, then you may be trying to give away a pound or two or five.) So you bring home that hill - or mountain - of green beans, and you have to figure out what to do with them.

Sauteing some green beans in a bit of olive oil and butter and then finishing them off by adding some water or broth to the pan and steaming them - that's the way I go most of the time. Quite delicious, with a nice dusting of salt and pepper, and they go with everything. After a few days though, my family starts to look at me with flickers of boredom in their eyes. And I still have mountains of beans to climb. That's where bean salads come into play. A great late-summer, early-fall way to put those beans to use. Not to mention bean salads are portable, picnic-worthy and can be made ahead of time.

This one is so simple - really just beans with a vinaigrette. A day in the fridge will deepen the flavor. If you wanted to go for a warm bean salad, skip the ice-water bath and cook the beans for about 5 minutes until still crisp tender. Drain and toss the warm beans with the vinaigrette, then let cool slightly. The beans will continue to soften a bit as they cool in the vinaigrette, so make sure to drain them before they are too tender. Creole mustard is a coarse, stone-ground mustard, zippy and with a nice, nubby texture. Once this ingredient becomes part of your pantry, it will never NOT be there. Any Louisianan will tell you, don't you dare make a remoulade sauce without it. But if you wanted to use a coarse Dijon, that will also work just fine (just don't shoot your mouth off about it down South).

Ingredients

Servings: 4 to 6
Start to finish: 15 minutes
1 1/2 pounds green beans, trimmed
1 tablespoon honey
1 tablespoon Creole mustard
1 tablespoon apple cider vinegar
1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil
1/2 teaspoon salt, plus more if needed
Freshly ground black pepper to taste

Preparation

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Fill a medium-size bowl with ice water. Add the green beans to the boiling water and cook until just tender, 6 to 8 minutes. Drain well, and plunge them into the bowl of ice water. Drain when they have cooled. While the beans are cooking, in a large serving bowl, whisk together the honey, Creole mustard, vinegar, olive oil, 1/2 teaspoon salt, and pepper. Toss the cooled green beans in the dressing, taste and adjust seasonings as needed, and serve at room temperature.

Nutrition information per serving

104 calories; 35 calories from fat; 4 g fat (1 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 0 mg cholesterol; 339 mg sodium; 16 g carbohydrate; 5 g fiber; 10 g sugar; 3 g protein. — AP

Serve grilled BLT salad with buttermilk dressing

By SARA MOULTON

When I first heard about folks grilling romaine lettuce, I was pretty skeptical. Lettuce is supposed to be crisp. Grilling would make it soggy. What's the point? Now, having tried it myself, I see the point. Grilling the romaine not only really amplifies its flavor, it also adds the same lip-smacking smokiness that grilling produces in any food. And all it takes is two minutes on the grill to get the job done.

For this recipe for Grilled BLT Salad with Buttermilk Dressing, the romaine is halved and

grilled on just one side and then served as a wedge. This, of course, is how iceberg lettuce is served in the steakhouse (minus the grilling, but plus Russian or blue cheese dressing). Here the wedge is topped with the fixings of a BLT sandwich, including grilled bread. Does the grilling soften up the lettuce, as feared? Indeed it does, but only the wedge's outside layer. Happily, the core remains crunchy.

Rather than slathering this salad with glops of too-rich mayonnaise, I've drizzled it with an herbed buttermilk dressing: two parts buttermilk to one part mayo. Most of the buttermilk to be found in the supermarket these days is low-fat, but I've

recently discovered a whole-milk version, and if you don't mind the extra calories, I highly recommend it.

The dressing's one essential ingredient is garlic, but the other flavorings are up to you. Not a fan of tarragon or scallion? Use dill, chives, basil or oregano instead. Are there family members who don't eat meat? Swap in smoked salmon for the bacon. Looking to move this salad from the side of the plate to its center? "Beef" it up by adding grilled chicken or shrimp. However you do it, you'll discover, like me, the unexpected joys of grilled lettuce.



Ingredients

Start to finish: 45 minutes

Servings: 4

For the dressing:

1/4 cup mayonnaise

1/2 cup buttermilk

1/2 teaspoon finely minced garlic

3 tablespoons finely chopped scallion (white and green parts)

2 tablespoons finely chopped fresh tarragon

2 teaspoons fresh lemon juice

Salt and black pepper

For the salad:

2 cups halved cherry tomatoes

1/2 teaspoon kosher salt

6 slices bacon

3 slices rustic bread, crusts removed

Extra-virgin olive oil for brushing the lettuce and the bread

2 hearts romaine, halved lengthwise, leaving the cores intact

Preparation

Preheat the grill to medium. Make the dressing: In a medium bowl combine all the ingredients and whisk well. Add salt and pepper to taste and set aside. Make the salad: In a colander toss the tomatoes with the salt and let drain while you prepare the rest of the salad. Heat a large skillet over medium

heat, add the bacon and cook until crisp on both sides, about 5 minutes total. Transfer to paper towels to drain and crumble when cool.

Brush the bread on both sides with some oil and grill the bread until toasted on both sides, about 1 to 2 minutes a side. Transfer to a rack, let cool and cut into squares. Brush the cut sides of the romaine with oil and add the romaine to the grill, cut side down. Grill just until the romaine is lightly charred on the cut side, about 2 minutes. Transfer the romaine halves to each of four plates, cut side up. Top each portion with one-fourth of the tomatoes, croutons and bacon; drizzle some of the dressing over each portion. — AP

A Conversation of Ice and Fire: Diving into the world of Game of Thrones



Episode IV

By Aakash and Vishal Bakaya

What better way to celebrate 'Game of Thrones', the world's biggest cultural phenomenal than sitting down and criticizing it with my brother. My elder brother Vishal and I are both mega fans of 'A Song of Ice and Fire' and we'll be taking a look at each episode this season and provide a run-down and re-cap of all the major and minor moments. Episode 4 'Spoils of War' was the very definition of a mixed-bag with a massive let-down but an even bigger battle sequence. Let's dive right in.

General thoughts

- A:** For this week's article, we'll keep on to last week's format by starting with our general thoughts of the episode and then get into the nitty-gritty details further down. Generally, I felt that it wasn't much of an improvement over the last episode as it moved the plot along in a similar bogged-down fashion. It had a bigger action set-piece to top it off but the writing and the first half of the episode was just as bad. What they've done with Arya's story not only ruined this episode for me but may have also ruined whatever future development we'll see for her. I was surprised at how short the length was as well. It didn't improve the pacing while completely ignoring major plot lines like the Hound, the White-Walkers and whatever is happening with Euron. Of course they don't have to touch upon every character in every episode but a little bit of development would make these characters more 'influential' in the story this season.
- V:** I felt it was an overall improvement over last week which in comparison had nothing

redeeming about it. 'Spoils of War' had its flaws but it also had some great moments with the battle at the end while keeping the rest of the episode slightly 'low-key' but still important. Some of the scenes were definitely more fan-service than anything else. Davos' increasing ineptitude has become more and more unbearable being such a big fan of his character. The conversation he and Jon had with Missandei felt more like a videogame RPG than a high-quality HBO production.

- A:** One thing I noticed was how many of the scenes are beginning to feel overcrowded. When you have an upwards of 6-7 key characters on the screen, it naturally begins to feel bloated and uneven. In the sense that you're never going to do justice to every character in the scene so why not work around it.
- V:** I think that issue comes down to the differences between casual and hardcore fans. Casual fans are simply getting a kick from seeing all these characters who were once so far apart now finally together again while hardcore fans are thinking about each indi-





vidual arc and how these bloated scenes affect them.

- A:** That's true. Regardless, I can safely say we are far from 'casual' fans of the show and universe so it's definitely quite frustrating for me.
- V:** Our allegiance is to the lore George RR Martin created. Our knees will not bend so easily.

Welcome home (Sanitarium)

- A:** Before we get to Dany's insistence on watching people grovel, let's talk about Arya and the Winterfell plot. So Arya coming back home to Winterfell is a massive emotional crux of the story on par with Frodo returning to the Shire, Neo realizing he's The One etc. The reason it's such a high point is because it's one of the cornerstones of her individual story. Is she still a Stark? How has her trauma from King's Landing, The Red Wedding and Braavos changed her? Is she truly broken, a shell without warmth - is she no one? These are the key aspects of her still being a child and her journey of self identity and discovery. So what do we finally end up getting? We get some buffoonish guards at the gate that led to a slow pan short of Winterfell that showed nothing of any relevance to her at all. I could go on about how utterly wrong this entire scene was but to keep it short - it was a travesty.
- V:** From an audio-visual stand point, they nailed the emotional significance of the moment with that amazing shot of her on horseback

looking at Winterfell from a distance. It was much too short but everything from the music to Maise's performance was just great. Now the next scene with her talking to the guards was a dumpster fire. In no scenario would Winterfell guards allow a small girl to freeze outside the gates and attempt to assault her as well! I have no idea why the writers thought we needed comedy or humor here and it felt so out of place. However some of the follow up scenes were good like Bran and Arya, and I actually liked the little fight she had with Brienne. Good choreography there.

- A:** Speaking about things being out of place - let's turn our attention towards Littlefinger. Four episodes into the season and yet another character continues to be totally useless. They've showed him staring ominously at people from afar but even then everyone seems to simply just ignore him and brush him off. He did however have a strange conversation with Bran where he once again stated that he's here only for Catelyn's children. It seemed a bit more ominous to be fair and I hope this leads to something interesting for him later on this season.
- V:** I don't understand what the show is trying to achieve with his talk with Bran. When Bran says 'chaos is a ladder' (quoting Littlefinger himself from the third season) we get this big reaction from Littlefinger. What I don't get is why the show, which has long ago abandoned any ounce of subtlety

it once had, is trying to be subtle with Bran of all characters. If Bran can see everything - being subtle with it seems cheap, they can't really portray his character adequately so they're taking this route.

Fight fire with fire

- A:** What a coincidence, the book that Sam found in Oldtown was right! There was actually a hidden pile of dragonglass under a random cliff side on Dragonstone - how shocked are you?
- V:** I am so relieved, the show really kept us on the edge of our seats on that one didn't they?
- A:** Sarcasm aside, I genuinely found the entire cave painting sequence hilarious. Emilia Clarke's acting was super over-the-top with her expression of wonderment not really being apt for looking at some black rocks. Also having important exposition and plot development happen through crudely drawn cave art left me dumbfounded. It felt like Jon had quickly drawn those sketches on the stone himself in order to convince Dany about the White Walker threat.
- V:** How did she even know what they even looked like? She didn't even know they existed until a few days ago.
- A:** I'll presume she was stunned at the artistic quality on display. But no matter how funny I thought that scene was - it redeemed itself with the war council on the beach. After hearing of another defeat, Dany desperately turns to Jon for advice on her next move and his response was just...perfect. The simple but to the point reasoning that nothing she'll ever do in this war will be without consequence really showed what the show and the characters on a whole are about.
- V:** For all the money they spent on the final battle scene, the show runners should spend some on lighting equipment. I had no idea why Dany was amazed because I literally could not make out what she was looking at. Also the drawing themselves could have had a bit more nuance to it instead of these kindergarten like depictions we end up getting.
- A:** So Dragonstone was just one half of Dany's plot this episode - the rest being the spectacle of the Field of Fire 2.0 (the first was during Aegon's conquest). Now I don't think I can add anything particularly unique about the scene without feeling like I'm harping along with every other fan that has eyes and ears. It was a big, fiery spectacle that was immensely entertaining to watch unfold. Bronn maybe should have died and the cliff-

hanger ending with Jamie was lame but apart from those small gripes - it was awesome.

- V:** I saw no fault at all with the battle scene. They wanted to something in the scope of B.O.B (Battle of the Bastards) but with dragons and a lot of fire. Judging it from a perspective of it being a pure, immersive battle it was fantastically done. All the credit should be given the special effect and VFX artists, the prop department and of course the stunt-men for pulling off some amazing on camera acrobatics.

And justice for all...?

- A:** For this week's final topic, I wanted to look back on the season since we are at the half way point as well as touch upon our hopes for the rest of the season. So the season has pretty much lead us to this point where Arya returns home and Dany's first attack on main land Westeros and what we ultimately end up getting is a mix of big spectacle and emotional hollowness. George has stated on numerous occasions that the underlying principle of the series is 'the human heart in conflict with itself'. Earlier seasons portrayed this conflict superbly notably with Robb, season 3 Jamie, Stannis and even Dany up until she took Meereen. Sadly, the seventh season contains no such dramatic or interesting character development which for me drastically lowers the quality of the season.
- V:** The first four episodes are undeniably in the 'forgettable' phase of the show. They are not going to be remembered for being very watchable apart from the Field of Fire sequence. 'Spoils of War' seems to be more of a 'Hail-Mary' play so to speak and they almost achieved it. At this mid-season point, I think people are wondering about the overall quality of the episodes. The story progression is very half-heartily executed with even more scenes of fan-service pandering like Arya fighting Brienne and almost the entirety of Jon being on Dragonstone.
- A:** The predictability of cutting down on Dany's allies at the start so that the odds seem skewed towards our antagonists is the exact same thing they've done in the last two seasons.
- V:** Yeah I'm finding myself drawing comparisons to WWE more often than I liked. I think we can both agree with the fact that the showrunners should stop making things happen simply because it looks or sounds cool and give more thought to the actual plight of our characters and what makes logical sense for the story.





Friday Times Travel



Incredible natural wonders of **South America**



The BBB River at Rurrenabaque

South America is known for many things - incredible culture, gorgeous beaches, amazing food. But most striking might be the continent's sheer geographical scale and diversity. South America is home to the world's longest mountain range, largest rainforest and (depending on who you ask) largest river. There are glaciers in the extreme south, active volcanoes tracing the line of the Andes, hot and cold climate deserts, massive waterfalls, canyons and salt flats. Here we present some of South America's most awe-inspiring natural wonders.

Rurrenabaque, Bolivia

The Amazon rainforest is one of the great natural wonders of the world and its scale and biodiversity dwarfs all other rainforests. It covers land belonging to nine South American countries and is home to 10% of the world's known species. The small town of Rurrenabaque in northern Bolivia is one of the best locations from which to explore the ecosystems and unique wildlife of the region. Situated on the Beni River, this simple town offers easy access to the Madidi National Park where various eco-lodges offer accommodation and tours of the deep jungle, including mildly terrifying night expeditions. The lighter vegetation of the wetland pampas which surrounds the jungle makes wildlife spotting even easier - pink river dolphins, capybara, monkeys, anacondas and caiman are all easily spotted on river trips and wetland walks.

Providencia, Colombia

Although the tiny Caribbean island of Providencia lies closer to Nicaragua than mainland South America, it is officially part of Colombia. This beautiful little island is just 7km long, but has everything you could want from a tropical idyll: warm, aquamarine waters, verdant forests and golden beaches lined with palm trees. The relaxed pace of island life and agreeable climate may tempt some to snooze their days away in hammocks, but the crystal clear waters and surrounding ocean reserve provide fantastic opportunities for scuba diving and snorkelling. The waters around the island support coral reefs, 400 fish species and 4 species of sea turtle. The island's remote location means that visitor numbers are low year round.

Lencois Maranhenses, Brazil

Situated on the northeastern coast of Brazil, in the state



Canyon Colca is deepest in the world

of Maranhão, Lencois Maranhenses is one of South America's best kept secrets. The word 'lencois' means 'sheets' in Portuguese, and when you first set eyes on this undulating expanse of pure white sand, you'll see why these gorgeous grounds got the name.

The dunes are sculpted by the wind into all manner of sinuous shapes, yet it is a geological quirk that makes this place extra special. A layer of impermeable rock lies underneath the sand, so when it rains, freshwater lakes form in the spaces between the dunes. These lakes appear intensely



Mount Fitz Roy

blue and green against the achingly white sand - the effect is hypnotic as you wander for hours through the surreal, otherworldly landscape. The best time to visit is between May and September when the water levels are highest.

Iguazu Falls, Argentina/Brazil

South America has its fair share of impressive waterfalls - Kaieteur Falls in Guyana and Salt Angel (Angel Falls) in Venezuela are both stunning examples. But the waterfall that eclipses all others on the continent (and, arguably, on the planet) is Iguazu. Located on the border between Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay, this enormous system of waterfalls is 2.7 km wide and dumps 1,750 m³ of water per second down a drop of 82 metres.

The centrepiece of the falls is the Devil's Throat, an awesomely powerful U-shaped section erupts with a near-constant spray of water onto the raised walkways, which means visitors to get right in on the action. More walkways and a small train allow visitors to get around the site and view the whole system from many different angles and proximities. The falls can be visited from the Argentinian and Brazilian sides and both are very worthwhile. The Argentinian side has a more extensive network of walkways and allows you to get very close to the main falls; the Brazilian side gives you great panoramic views of the entire system.

Mount Fitz Roy, Chile/Argentina

In terms of sheer majestic beauty, there are only a handful of places on earth that can rival Patagonia. Covering the southern regions of Chile and Argentina, this sparsely populated region is scattered with awe-inspiring sights - mountains, lakes, glaciers, fjords and forests. And while the region is littered with 'must-see' highlights (the Perito Moreno Glacier being a prime example), the jewel in the crown is Mount Fitz Roy.

This jagged, central peak has a slightly smaller satellite peak on either side to form a breathtakingly dramatic trio of granite points. Known as one of the most technically challenging climbs in the world, a full ascent is beyond all but the most advanced mountaineers. However, there are numerous hikes in the surrounding areas, including the one-day trail up to Laguna de Los Tres, a lake at the base of the three peaks.

Canon Del Colca, Peru

The ancient Inca cities of Cuzco and Machu Picchu are

foremost in the minds of most first-time visitors to Peru, but 400km to the south is another must-see highlight, Canon Del Colca. From the heights of the surrounding mountains, the canyon drops over 3,500 metres to the river Colca below, making it one of the deepest canyons in the world, about twice as deep as the Grand Canyon in Arizona. There are various trails that take walkers down into the canyon, and although the rocky paths can be taxing, the breathtaking views across the canyon more than make up for the achy legs. As climbers reach the lower depths of the canyon, the rocks and dust are replaced by lush vegetation and there are even hostels offering swimming pools for weary travellers to cool off before embarking on the gruelling climb out of the canyon.

Atacama Desert, Chile

The Atacama Desert's high altitude, low light pollution and extremely low moisture levels give it the clearest skies on earth. Looking up at the stars here becomes a profound, spine-tingling experience - the sheer number of stars visible is startling. Meteors flash away every minute or two and the Milky Way - barely visible from most urban locations - becomes a crystal clear band that runs across the sky. Those who want to go beyond simple stargazing can visit the ALMA Observatory, an array of huge antennas which combine to form one of the world's most advanced radio telescopes. Further to the south, close to the city of La Serena, there is also the excellent Mamalluca Observatory where visitors can take a tour with astronomy researchers and look at the moon and stars through a powerful 12-inch telescope. (www.lonelyplanet.com)



Lencois Maranhenses on Brazil's north Atlantic coast



Aries (March 21-April 19)

In taking care of business, it is important to stay focused. There is a sense of emotional coolness or detachment at the personal level. It is ideas that count for you now, more than narrowly personal concerns-and you may have little tolerance for people who do not function at this level. You do not waste words today as communications tend to be short and to the point. Take time to be specific and ask for feedback so that you can be sure you were clear in your instructions to others. Take care of every last detail by proofing, or if possible, exchanging your work with someone else and proofing the other's work. Develop and use your critical faculties. You are determined to complete your tasks. This evening is an excellent time to relax by music.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Inventions, in particular in communications, perhaps by updating computers and electronics, may be a path of temptation to move into some type of new profession. There are clear perspectives into your present reality, making situations easier to understand. You are tolerant and accepting of differences and have good insights into problems. Independent, you like to promote and compromise and otherwise show your desire and abilities to understand others. You may be unconventional in matters of philosophy and religion-always finding new ways to get past the fluff. You must understand, however, that your insights into truth and the eternal make you a loner at times. You seek to understand situations by finding new ways to better conditions.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

This is a time of good fortune when things open up in a very natural way for you. Opportunities are plenty and you may find yourself wanting and able to do almost anything. This is one of those days that everything blends together and results are the best they can be. Now . . . There are some real opportunities to complete and work out difficulties and projects that require both long-term effort and a high degree of discipline. This is also a day that is good for most job-related events. You could represent or speak for your company at this time. Any personal matters you want to accomplish or business matters that need tending will also certainly end in positive ways. Tonight would be a good time to pal around with some of your friends-maybe sports.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You are in control of your day, especially when interacting with superiors. You may find that you enjoy your job or the responsibility it requires. It is ideas that count for you now, more than narrowly personal concerns. You are at your most practical when it comes to dealing and working with others. You know just what to do and can act without haste. Your ideal dream is a private one and heaven is as close as work and family. The romantic in you struggles against the frontier spirit that often moves you to action. You will continue to develop a knack for organizing things and people as a sense of ambition and practicality deepens. Work, achievement and ambition mean a lot to you now-show off your skills.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Your dreams and ideals are very important to you. You may be more focused on your goals now than ever before. You busy yourself putting those plans of yours to work. You will notice that you have become more focused in your work lately. This afternoon, when you show up early for a family get-together, they may be surprised as well as pleased that you broke free from your projects in order to be with them. You are intuitively learning your limits as well as implementing a balance in your life. There is time this evening for making a few special plans that will help you complete one or two of your goals. You may find yourself putting your whole heart into making your dreams and ideals a reality. Much can be accomplished without stress.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Saying or writing with style comes natural to you these days. New words to increase your vocabulary expertise can be a fun activity between you and a friend or co-worker. Your ability to discriminate real breakthroughs and spot new trends makes you able to work in areas that are at the very fringe of technology as well as psychology. You love all that is new and different and electronics, computers, communication-in fact, everything electrical is where your attention stays focused most of this day. There is a desire for variety this evening, particularly where it applies to romantic experience and artistic tastes. A sociable, congenial, slightly frivolous orientation sets in now. You will enjoy the interaction of friends tonight.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Your career could assume a much more determined and solid form. This is a real time to buckle down and firm up your career goals. Your own ambition and drive are strong. You are able to use good reasonable thinking and make good choices. You can get a faster push forward by taking the right kind of action; you are positive and attentive. By working at a steady pace you will make a lot of progress. This afternoon you may find yourself advising or guiding another. Your spontaneity and unpredictability make you interesting to a group gathering this evening. You are independent and the way you come across to others creates an opportunity to teach and guide. You find some time to enjoy some simple exercise before retiring tonight.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You may find that a particular project is just not your cup of tea this morning. You take your turn and may have the opportunity to suggest a rotation routine so that you are not always called on to do things you do not want to do every day. A good sport attitude may be all-important just now. Outwardly you are intense and passionate and this quality is so essential to your character that all else revolves around it. This is what makes you popular when your work or personal partners want to move forward and get things accomplished. This afternoon you and your neighbors may decide that this next weekend would be perfect for a cookout. A meeting will be productive and allow everyone to pick what to bring, whose house and the theme or fun activities to enjoy.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You are in tune with the practical issues in the workplace today. A firm sense of direction will help get you to your destination. This is a great time to be working in groups. You may be sought after as a guide or leader. You could be most persuasive with others and charismatic in speech and communication. You could come up with new solutions or inventions, and it is good that you are willing to listen to the ideas of others. It is ideas that count for you now, more than narrowly personal concerns. Family needs are important and there is no question about attending a family event this evening. Praise and support encourages a loved one to achieve the best. You are the cheerleader and the inspiration for your family and friends.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Be satisfied with the ordinary and usual for now. Novel ideas or insights could be more damaging than useful. There is hectic emotional energy prevailing, but it is only temporary. After the workday is over, you could be tempted to relieve stress by purchasing some items. There is a greater appreciation for things of value and the idea of value itself is in order. This could be a period of great material gain; it is certainly a time when material things have a great deal of importance for you. If you are on a budget, give yourself twenty-four hours before making your final purchase decision. You may be helpful to a friend or close relative this evening. You are able to find the real truth about a questionable situation.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Anyone who tries to get you to play with words is in for a big surprise. Your mind cuts right through all the window dressing and gets right down to the quick. Before anyone knows it, you have the heart of the matter out front for everyone to see. You would make a great investigator, either in scientific research or undercover work. It makes no difference. Your ability to get to the point is all but phenomenal. You can talk and put into words areas of the psychological that others would not touch. You have an urge to put out to sea and to somehow get past what separates and into that which unites or ties things together. Your drive to make dreams real keeps you working for your vision and goals. Consider volunteer work this week.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Your successful optimism is obvious and therefore, catching. You see positive results from your hard work today. Family, home, relatives and real estate play a big part in your life now. Perhaps you have been planning a move and someone calls with information on just the right home for you. You work to show off your skills and you enjoy the praise you receive. This time marks a change of direction for you, away from the material and glitter, toward inner needs and security. Your intuition is strong and can guide you accurately in making forecasts or decisions; allow this to work for you. You will find yourself more concerned with maintaining and strengthening your position, rather than pushing outward. These next few months are for friends.

COUNTRY CODES

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



00:45 Treehouse Masters
01:40 Bad Dog
02:35 Untamed China With Nigel Marven
03:25 Whale Wars
04:15 Whale Wars
05:02 Mutant Planet
05:49 Untamed & Uncut
06:36 Swamp Brothers
07:00 Swamp Brothers
07:25 Untamed China With Nigel Marven
08:15 Treehouse Masters
09:10 Bad Dog
10:05 Mutant Planet
11:00 Untamed China With Nigel Marven
11:55 Whale Wars
13:45 Bad Dog
14:40 Mutant Planet
15:35 Untamed & Uncut
16:30 Treehouse Masters
17:25 Life On Earth: A New Prehistory
18:20 The Vet Life
19:15 Bad Dog
20:10 Gator Boys
21:05 Life On Earth: A New Prehistory
22:00 The Vet Life
22:55 Mutant Planet
23:50 Untamed & Uncut



00:45 EastEnders
01:15 Holby City
02:10 Carters Get Rich
02:35 Mum
03:05 Uncle
03:35 Pramface
04:10 Death In Paradise
05:05 EastEnders
05:30 Carters Get Rich
06:00 Holby City
06:55 EastEnders
07:20 Father Brown
08:15 The Musketeers
09:10 The Musketeers
10:05 The Musketeers
11:00 EastEnders
11:30 Holby City
12:25 The Moonstone
13:15 Father Brown
14:00 Father Brown
14:50 EastEnders
15:20 The Musketeers
16:15 The Musketeers
17:15 The Musketeers
18:15 Father Brown
19:05 The Moonstone
20:00 Top Of The Lake
21:00 Orphan Black
21:45 Benidorm
22:35 Carters Get Rich
23:00 Uncle
23:30 The Moonstone



00:00 The First 48
01:00 Britain's Biggest Heists
02:00 Homicide Hunter
03:00 The First 48
04:00 The First 48
05:00 Britain's Biggest Heists
06:00 It Takes A Killer
08:00 The First 48
09:00 Homicide Hunter
10:00 Gangs Of Britain...
11:00 Gangs Of Britain...
12:00 Gangs Of Britain...
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 Diabolical Women
23:00 Escaping Evil: My Life In A Cult



00:30 Lost & Found With Mike & Jesse
01:20 Weather Top Tens
02:10 Engineering Hurricanes

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 Now That's Funny
17:50 The Carbonaro Effect
18:15 The Carbonaro Effect
18:40 Mythbusters
19:30 How It's Made
19:55 How It's Made
20:20 Guinness World Records
Smashed UK
21:10 Now That's Funny
22:00 The Carbonaro Effect
22:25 The Carbonaro Effect
22:50 Finding Bigfoot



00:05 Important Things With Demetri Martin
00:30 The Half Hour
00:55 Broad City
01:20 Chappelle's Show
02:10 Live At The Apollo
03:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
03:25 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
04:15 Sweat Inc.
05:05 Bondi Ink.
05:55 Hungry Investors
06:50 Urban Tarzan
07:15 Tattoo Disasters
07:40 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
08:30 Framework
09:20 Coaching Bad
10:10 Catch A Contractor
11:00 Lip Sync Battle
13:05 Disaster Date
13:30 Disaster Date
13:55 I Live With Models
14:20 The It Crowd
14:45 The It Crowd
15:10 Nathan For You
15:35 Nathan For You
16:00 The Jim Gaffigan Show
16:30 Impractical Jokers
18:35 Lip Sync Battle
18:59 Ridiculousness Arabia
19:25 Ridiculousness Arabia
19:46 The It Crowd
20:10 The It Crowd
20:33 Important Things With Demetri Martin
21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
21:30 The President Show
22:00 Live At The Apollo
22:50 Kumail Nanjani: Beta Male
23:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah



00:30 Vanity Fair Confidential
01:20 Murder Comes To Town
02:10 The Detectives Club: New Orleans
03:00 Evil Online
03:48 I'd Kill For You
04:36 I'd Kill For You
05:24 I'd Kill For You
06:12 I'd Kill For You
07:00 Southern Fried Homicide
07:50 Southern Fried Homicide
08:40 Southern Fried Homicide
09:30 Southern Fried Homicide
10:20 The Locator
10:45 The Locator
11:10 Evil Online
12:00 I'd Kill For You

12:50 I'd Kill For You
15:20 The Locator
16:10 Murder Chose Me
17:00 Evil-In-Law
19:30 Blood Relatives
20:20 On The Case With Paula Zahn
21:10 How (Not) To Kill Your Husband
22:00 Evil Lives Here
22:50 Evil Stepmothers
23:40 Is O.J. Innocent? The Missing Evidence



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 Cloud 9
18:15 Welcome To The Ronks
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 Crackle
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



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 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
21:00 Goldie & Bear
21:25 Doc McStuffins
21:50 Minnie's Bow-Toons
22:00 Little Mermaid
22:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
22:55 PJ Masks
23:20 Henry Hugglemonster
23:35 The Hive
23:45 Loopdidoo



00:20 Wheeler Dealers
01:05 Ocean Warriors
01:50 How Do They Do It?
02:12 How Do They Do It?
02:35 Impossible Engineering
03:20 Fast N' Loud
04:05 Gold Rush
05:35 How Do They Do It?
06:00 Blowing Up History
06:45 Strip The City
07:30 Cooper's Treasure: The Hunt For A Secret Fortune
08:15 Deadliest Catch
09:00 How Do They Do It?
09:25 Kings Of The Wild
10:10 Treasure Quest: Snake Island
10:55 The Dark Side Of The Sun
11:40 Gold Rush
12:25 How Do They Do It?
12:47 Fast N' Loud
13:32 Sacred Steel Bikes
14:17 Street Outlaws: New Orleans
15:02 Deadliest Catch
16:35 Deadliest Catch
17:25 Deadliest Catch
18:20 Deadliest Catch
19:15 Deadliest Catch
20:10 How Do They Do It?
20:35 How Do They Do It?
21:00 Fast N' Loud
21:50 Sacred Steel Bikes
22:40 Street Outlaws: New Orleans
23:30 Deadliest Catch



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 Flashback Friday - Your Winner
14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
14:15 Flashback Friday - Your Winner
14:40 Flashback Friday - Your Winner
15:05 Robin Hood
16:35 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
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



00:50 Famously Single
01:50 E! News
02:50 Celebrity Style Story
03:20 Celebrity Style Story
03:50 Botched
04:40 Botched
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 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
09:55 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
10:50 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
11:45 Celebrity Style Story
12:15 Rob & Chyna
13:10 Rob & Chyna
14:05 Rob & Chyna
15:00 E! News: Daily Pop
15:55 Botched
16:45 Botched
17:35 Botched
18:30 Celebrity Style Story
19:00 E! News
20:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
21:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
22:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
23:00 Botched
23:55 Botched



00:00 Rev Run's Sunday Suppers
00:30 Rev Run's Sunday Suppers
01:00 Smollett Eats
01:30 Smollett Eats
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: Fast Feasts
09:30 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts
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: Fast Feasts
13:30 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts
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 Luke Nguyen's United Kingdom
20:30 Luke Nguyen's United Kingdom
21:00 Reza, Spice Prince Of Thailand
22:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
22:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
23:00 Chopped



00:00 Don't Tell The Bride
01:00 Emmerdale
01:30 Coronation Street
02:30 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
03:25 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!
04:40 Catchphrase
05:15 Autopsy: The Last Hours Of...
06:05 Don't Tell The Bride
07:05 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
08:00 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!
09:20 Catchphrase
10:00 Autopsy: The Last Hours Of...
10:50 Don't Tell The Bride
11:50 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
12:45 Emmerdale
13:45 Coronation Street
14:10 Don't Tell The Bride
15:10 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
16:00 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!
16:55 Tonight At The London Palladium
17:50 Autopsy: The Last Hours Of...
18:45 Emmerdale
19:45 Coronation Street
20:10 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
21:00 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!



00:00 Ancient Discoveries
01:00 Engineering An Empire
02:00 Missing In Alaska
02:50 Ancient Aliens
03:40 Blood And Glory: The Civil War In Color
04:30 Million Dollar Genius
05:20 Ancient Discoveries
06:10 The Universe
07:00 Engineering An Empire
08:00 Missing In Alaska
09:00 Ancient Aliens
10:00 Patton 360
11:00 The Universe
12:00 Ancient Discoveries
13:00 Engineering An Empire
14:00 Missing In Alaska
15:00 Ancient Aliens
16:00 Patton 360
17:00 The Universe
18:00 Decoding The Past
19:00 Engineering An Empire
20:00 Missing In Alaska
21:00 Ancient Aliens
22:00 The Lost Evidence
23:00 Million Dollar Genius



00:20 Football: A Brief History By Alfie Allen
01:10 Lost Worlds
02:00 Ax Men
02:50 Storage Wars Miami
03:15 American Pickers
04:05 Pawn Stars
04:30 Pawn Stars
05:00 Mountain Men
05:00 Hunting Hitler
06:50 Time Team
07:40 American Pickers
08:30 Football: A Brief History By Alfie Allen
09:20 Swamp People
10:10 Ax Men
11:00 American Pickers
11:50 American Pickers
12:40 Lost In Transmission
13:30 Pawn Stars

13:55 Pawn Stars
15:10 Counting Cars
15:35 Counting Cars
16:00 Alone: Lost And Found
16:50 The Curse Of Oak Island
17:40 The Curse Of Oak Island
18:30 Car Hunters
18:55 Car Hunters
19:20 Counting Cars
19:45 Counting Cars
20:10 Mountain Men
21:00 American Pickers
21:50 Pawn Stars
22:15 Pawn Stars
22:40 Forged In Fire
23:30 101 People Who Made The 20th Century



00:15 Eat Street
00:45 The Food Files
01:10 Wineroads
01:40 Island Hunter
02:35 Carnival Eats
03:00 Carnival Eats
03:30 One Man & His Campervan
03:55 Wineroads
04:25 Confucius Was A Foodie
05:20 Cesar Millan's Dog Nation
06:15 Dog Whisperer
07:10 Island Hunter
08:05 Carnival Eats
08:30 Carnival Eats
09:00 One Man & His Campervan
09:25 Wineroads
09:55 Confucius Was A Foodie
10:50 Cesar Millan's Dog Nation
11:45 Dog Whisperer
12:40 Cruise Ship Diaries
13:05 Cruise Ship Diaries
13:35 Carnival Eats
14:00 Carnival Eats
14:30 One Man & His Campervan
14:55 Wineroads
15:25 Confucius Was A Foodie
16:20 Cesar Millan's Dog Nation
17:15 Dog Whisperer
18:10 Cesar To The Rescue
19:05 Confucius Was A Foodie
20:00 Cesar Millan's Dog Nation
21:00 Dog Whisperer
22:00 Cesar To The Rescue
22:55 Cruise Ship Diaries
23:20 Cruise Ship Diaries
23:50 Carnival Eats



00:10 Supercar Megabuild
01:00 Big Fix Alaska
02:00 Locked Up Abroad
03:00 Megastuctures
04:00 Supercar Megabuild
05:00 Street Genius
05:30 Street Genius
06:00 No Man Left Behind
07:00 Lockdown: Scam City
08:00 Seconds From Disaster
08:30 Seconds From Disaster
09:00 Street Genius
09:30 Street Genius
10:00 Locked Up Abroad
11:00 Prison Women Texas Hold Em'
12:00 Marco Polo: The China Mystery Revealed
12:30 Marco Polo: The China Mystery Revealed
13:00 No Man Left Behind
14:00 Seconds From Disaster
14:30 Seconds From Disaster
15:00 Airport Security: Colombia
16:00 Locked Up Abroad
17:00 World's Deadliest Gangs
18:00 Undercover USA
19:00 Surgery Ship
20:00 Locked Up Abroad
20:50 World's Deadliest Gangs
21:40 Undercover USA
22:30 Surgery Ship
23:20 Seconds From Disaster



00:20 Attack Of The Big Cats
01:10 Spine Chillers: Vampire Bats
02:00 Incredible Fangs
02:50 Tiger Man
03:45 Animal Record Breakers
04:40 Animals Gone Wild
05:35 Incredible Fangs
06:30 Tiger Man
07:25 Animal Record Breakers
08:20 Animals Gone Wild

09:15 Snakes In The City
10:10 Wild Congo (2017)
11:05 New Wave Warriors
12:00 Fish Tank Kings
12:55 America's Deadliest
13:50 Tiger Man
14:45 When Sharks Attack
Compilations
15:40 Animals Gone Wild
16:35 Snakes In The City
17:30 Incredible Fish
18:25 When Sharks Attack
Compilations
19:20 America's Deadliest
20:10 Animals Gone Wild
21:00 Snakes In The City
21:50 Incredible Fish



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 Jinxed
12:12 The Loud House
12:36 Hunter Street
13:00 Hunter Street
13:24 Hunter Street
13:48 Hunter Street
14:12 Hunter Street
14:36 Hunter Street
15:00 Rank The Prank
15:24 Rank The Prank
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



00:01 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
00:55 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:18 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
03:23 Dora The Explorer
03:45 Max & Ruby
04:07 Nella The Princess Knight
04:30 Shimmer And Shine
04:53 Dora And Friends
05:16 Zack & Quack
05:29 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
07:44 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
09:22 Paw Patrol
09:45 Rusty Rivets
09:57 Bubble Guppies
10:20 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
10:40 Zack & Quack
10:52 Team Umizoomi
11:15 Shimmer And Shine
11:38 Shimmer And Shine
12:01 Max & Ruby
12:25 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
12:36 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
12:47 The Day Henry Met
12:52 The Day Henry Met
12:57 Blaze And The Monster Machines
13:19 Blaze And The Monster Machines
13:41 Zack & Quack
14:03 Team Umizoomi
14:25 Olive The Ostrich
14:30 Olive The Ostrich
14:35 Paw Patrol
14:58 Little Charmers
15:10 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
15:22 Dora The Explorer
15:44 Max & Ruby
16:07 Nella The Princess Knight
16:31 Shimmer And Shine
16:54 Dora And Friends
17:17 Zack & Quack
17:29 The Day Henry Met
17:34 The Day Henry Met
17:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
18:00 Rusty Rivets
18:13 Paw Patrol
18:37 Dora The Explorer
19:00 Zack & Quack
19:21 Bubble Guppies
19:44 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
21:22 Paw Patrol
21:45 Rusty Rivets
21:57 Bubble Guppies
22:25 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
22:40 Zack & Quack
22:52 Team Umizoomi
23:15 Shimmer And Shine
23:38 Shimmer And Shine



00:15 The Middle
00:40 The Middle
01:05 Difficult People
01:30 Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll
01:55 The Big C
02:25 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
03:10 Late Night With Seth Meyers
04:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
04:50 George Lopez
05:15 Wrecked
05:40 American Housewife
06:05 The Mick
06:30 Mom
06:55 Breaking In
07:20 Late Night With Seth Meyers
08:10 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
09:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
09:50 George Lopez
10:15 Wrecked
10:40 Mom
11:05 Breaking In
11:30 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
12:20 Seinfeld
12:45 Seinfeld
13:10 The Middle
13:35 The Middle
14:00 George Lopez
14:25 Wrecked
14:50 Mom
15:15 American Housewife
15:40 The Mick
16:05 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
17:00 Seinfeld
17:30 Seinfeld
18:00 The Middle
18:30 The Middle
19:00 Powerless
19:30 Baby Daddy
20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
21:00 Seinfeld
21:30 Seinfeld
22:00 Difficult People
22:30 Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll
23:00 The Big C



00:40 Famous In Love
01:30 Beyond
02:20 Blindspot
03:20 The Flash
04:10 Once Upon A Time
05:00 Good Morning America
07:00 The View
07:45 The Chew
08:30 Famous In Love
09:20 The Flash
10:10 Once Upon A Time
11:00 Blindspot
11:45 The Night Shift
12:30 The View
13:15 The Chew
14:00 Live Good Morning America
16:00 Once Upon A Time
17:00 The Flash
18:00 Blindspot
19:00 Time After Time
20:00 The Fosters
21:00 Secret City
22:00 Feud
23:00 Blood Drive
23:50 Grimm



00:00 The Asian Connection
01:30 Echo Effect
03:10 Tracers
04:55 Age Of Tomorrow
06:35 Fast & Furious 7
08:50 Echo Effect
10:20 Tracers
11:55 Savage Dog
13:30 Fast & Furious 7
15:45 The 5th Wave
17:40 Gone In Sixty Seconds
19:40 Mission: Impossible - Rogue Nation
21:50 The Last Witch Hunter
23:40 No Tears For The Dead



01:20 Tarzan
02:55 The Game Plan
04:55 Pirates Of The Caribbean 2: Dead Man's Chest
07:25 Secretariat
09:30 Finding Nemo
11:15 Secretariat
13:20 Up
15:00 The Boxtrolls
16:40 Mostly Ghostly: One Night In Doom House
18:10 The Secret Of The Magic Gourd
19:40 The Shaggy Dog
21:20 The Boxtrolls
23:00 Up



00:00 Beyond
01:00 Blindspot
01:50 Grimm
02:40 Famous In Love
03:30 Beyond
04:20 Blindspot
05:20 The Flash
06:10 Once Upon A Time
07:00 Good Morning America
09:00 The View
09:45 The Chew
10:30 Famous In Love
11:20 The Flash
12:10 Once Upon A Time
13:00 Blindspot
13:45 The Night Shift
14:30 The View
15:15 The Chew
16:00 Live Good Morning America
18:00 Once Upon A Time
19:00 The Flash
20:00 Blindspot
21:00 Time After Time
22:00 The Fosters
23:00 Secret City



00:00 Dirty Grandpa
01:45 Baby, Baby, Baby
03:15 Mr. Deeds
04:55 Other Plans
06:25 Love, Rosie
08:15 Mr. Deeds

10:00 Other Plans
11:40 Love, Rosie
13:20 Trust Me
15:00 Outside Bet
16:50 Sneakers
19:05 Daddy's Home
20:50 Break Point
22:30 Dance Flick



00:15 The Shining
02:20 The Survivalist
04:05 Some Like It Hot
06:05 Every Thing Will Be Fine
08:05 Fast Girls
09:40 Rushmore
11:15 A Country Called Home
12:50 My Old Lady
14:40 I Am Bolt
16:30 The Wave
18:15 Far From Men
20:00 Birdman
22:00 Dead Poets Society



00:50 The Happy Cricket
02:25 Lego DC: Justice League
Gotham City Breakout
03:50 Egon And Donci
05:15 The Tigger Movie
06:55 The Heart Of The Oak
08:15 Legend Of The Sea
09:35 The Swan Princess: Pirate Today, Princess Tomorrow
11:05 Song Of The Sea
12:40 The Happy Cricket
14:15 Lego DC: Justice League
Gotham City Breakout
15:40 Pooh's Heffalump Halloween Movie
16:50 The Swan Princess: Pirate Today, Princess Tomorrow
18:20 Bamse And The City Of Thieves
19:40 Micropolis
21:15 Pooh's Heffalump Halloween Movie
22:25 Legend Of The Sea
23:45 Bamse And The City Of Thieves



00:35 Snatch
02:20 Blown Away
04:20 Die Hard
06:30 The Guardian
08:45 Blown Away
10:45 Die Hard
12:55 War Horse
15:20 Dick Tracy
17:05 Ghostbusters
18:50 Con Air
20:45 The Hurricane
23:15 Entourage



00:30 How Do They Do It?
00:55 Food Factory
01:20 Food Factory USA
01:45 Food Factory USA
02:10 Sci-Trek
03:00 How We Invented The World
03:48 Mythbusters
04:36 How Do They Do It?
05:00 Food Factory
05:24 Food Factory USA
05:48 Food Factory USA
06:12 Sci-Trek
07:00 How Do They Do It?
07:26 How We Invented The World
08:14 Mythbusters
09:02 Sci-Trek
09:50 How Do They Do It?
10:14 Food Factory
10:38 Food Factory USA
11:02 Food Factory USA
11:26 How We Invented The World
12:14 Mythbusters
13:02 How Do They Do It?
13:26 Food Factory
13:50 Sci-Trek
14:38 How We Invented The World
15:26 Food Factory USA
15:50 Food Factory USA
16:14 Mythbusters
17:02 Sci-Trek

17:50 How We Invented The World
18:40 Mythbusters
19:30 NASA's Unexplained Files
20:20 How Do They Do It?
20:45 Food Factory
21:10 Sci-Trek
22:00 NASA's Unexplained Files
22:50 How We Invented The World
23:40 Mythbusters



00:20 Say Yes To The Dress: Canada
00:42 Say Yes To The Dress: Canada
01:05 90 Day Fianc?: Happily Ever After?
01:50 Say Yes To The Dress UK
02:12 Say Yes To The Dress UK
02:35 Belief
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 Little People, Big World
06:45 Little People, Big World
07:30 Little People, Big World
08:15 Kate Plus 8
09:00 Say Yes To The Dress
09:25 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
10:10 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
10:55 Love, Lust Or Run
11:17 Love, Lust Or Run
11:40 Love, Lust Or Run
12:02 Love, Lust Or Run
12:25 Love, Lust Or Run
12:47 Love, Lust Or Run
13:10 Oprah: Where Are They Now?
13:55 Belief
14:40 Cake Boss
15:02 Cake Boss
15:25 Cake Boss
15:47 Cake Boss
16:10 Cake Boss
16:35 Cake Boss
17:00 7 Little Johnstons
17:50 Suddenly Rich
18:50 Kate Plus 8
19:40 Cake Boss
20:10 Say Yes To The Dress
20:35 Say Yes To The Dress
21:00 Outdaughters: Busby Quints
21:50 Sister Wives
22:40 My Giant Life



00:30 Red Bull Air Race Highlights
01:30 WWE Smackdown
03:00 FIBA 3 X 3 Basketball World Tour Highlights
03:30 Arena Esports
04:00 WWE Wal3ooha
04:30 X Games Heroes
05:00 Red Bull Cliff Diving
06:00 Red Bull Air Race Highlights
07:00 FIA World Rallycross Highlights
08:00 Red Bull Air Race Highlights
09:00 This Week In WWE
09:30 X Games Xtraordinary
10:00 WWE Wal3ooha
10:30 Red Bull Cliff Diving
11:30 X Games Heroes
12:00 WWE Bottom Line
13:00 WWE Aftershow
14:00 FIA World Rallycross Highlights
15:00 WWE Wal3ooha
15:30 X Games Heroes
16:00 Arena Esports
16:30 Monster Energy AMA Supercross Highlights
18:30 FIA World Rallycross Highlights
19:30 X Games Heroes
20:00 WWE Experience
21:00 WWE Wal3ooha
21:30 X Games Xtraordinary
22:00 UCI BMX World Championship



01:00 UFC Top 10
01:30 UFC Ultimate Knockouts
02:00 UFC Unleashed
03:00 Legends Football League
04:30 UFC Classics
05:30 UFC Unleashed
06:30 UFC Top 10
07:00 V8 Supercar Series Highlights
08:00 V8 Supercar Series Highlights
09:00 One Weekly
09:30 Mobil 1 The Grid
10:00 Live MotoGP
13:00 TCR International Series Highlights
13:30 TCR International Series

WORD SEARCH

Nursing Home 3

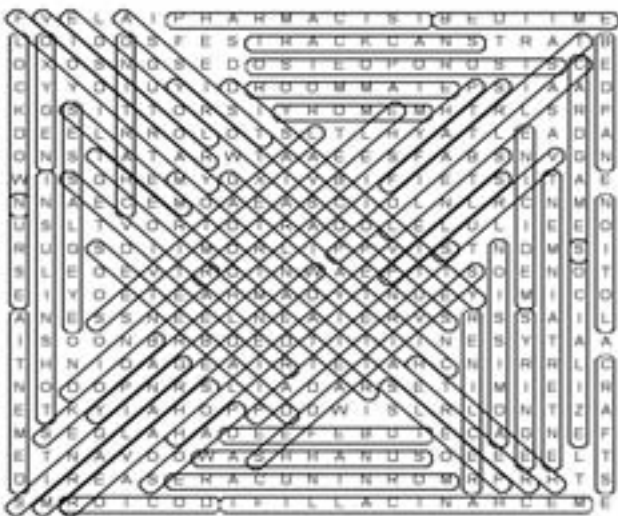
Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 40 letters spell an Albert Einstein quotation.



- | | | | | |
|------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| AGED | ELDERLY | ICE CREAM | FARTIES | SHAMPOO |
| ALZHEIMERS | ENEMA | ILLNESS | PERSONAL CARE | SHOTS |
| ATTENDANTS | EXERCISES | KITCHEN | PHYSICIAN | SHOWERING |
| BATHTUB | FALSE TEETH | LIBRARY | PHYSIOTHERAPY | STETHOSCOPE |
| BEDROOM | FAMILY | LUNCH | PLAYING CARDS | SYRINGES |
| BINGO | FATHERS | MEDICATION | QUILT | TOOTHBRUSH |
| BREAKFAST | FOOD | MOTHERS | RAILINGS | VISITORS |
| CARDS | FRACTURE | MUSIC THERAPY | RECREATION | WALKER |
| CHAIRS | GAMES | NAIPS | REPORTING | WASH HAIR |
| CHRONIC | GARDEN | NEWSPAPER | RESTRAINT | WOUND CARE |
| DEPRESSION | GLASSES | NURSES | ROOMS | |
| DINING | GLUCOMETER | OXYGEN TANK | SAFETY | |

Yesterday's Solution

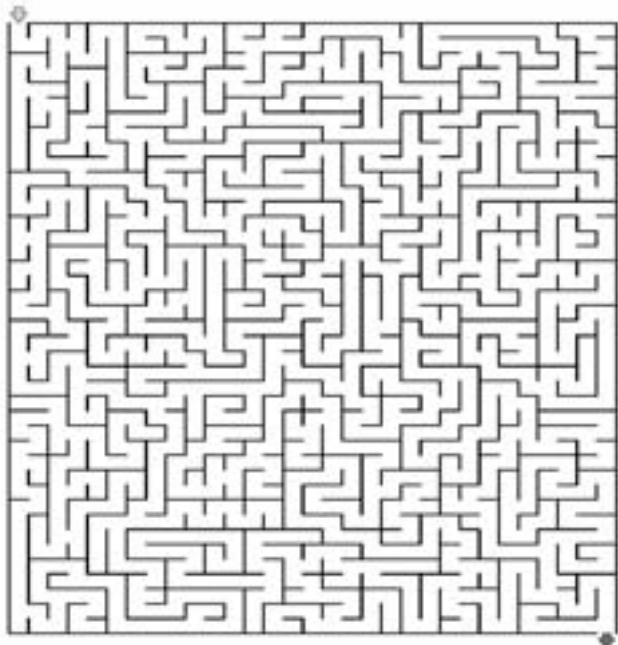
Nursing Home 2



- | | | | | |
|------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|--------------|
| ADMISSION | DISABILITY | LOTION | PHYSICAL THERAPY | SOAP |
| ASSIST | DOCTOR | LAUNGE | PILLS | SOCIALIST |
| BEDPANS | ELEVATOR | MEALS | PODAFRIST | STAFF |
| BEDTIME | ENTERTAINMENT | MCHANICAL LIFT | RECLINER | SUPPOSITORY |
| BOOKS | EYEGASSES | REMEDY | RECREATION ROOM | SYRINGE |
| CALL BELL | FOOD TRAY | RENOBY | RELATIVES | THERMOMETER |
| CARD GAMES | GERIATRIC | NURSING CARE | ROCKPATE | TUBE FEED |
| CHAIRING | HEALTH | NURSE | SEGNATIVES | VIRUS |
| CHAFTS | HOLIDAY EVENTS | OSTEOPOROSIS | SHOWER | VISITOR |
| DEMENTIA | INSULIN SHOT | OXYGEN | SHOWER | WANDER ALARM |
| DIABETES | LAXATIVES | PATIENTS | SLEEP | WASH HANDS |
| DINNER | LOCKDOWN | PHARMACIST | SNACK CART | |

The hidden message is:
LIFE'S TRAGEDY IS THAT WE GET OLD TOO SOON AND WISE TOO LATE

CHALLENGING MAZE



CROSSWORD 1683



ACROSS

1. A spring-flowering shrub or small tree of the genus Crataegus.
2. Illusory auditory perception of strange nonverbal sounds.
3. An area in a town where a public mercantile establishment is set up.
4. A period marked by distinctive character or reckoned from a fixed point or event.
5. A stiff protective garment worn by hockey players or a catcher in baseball to protect the shins.
6. The capital of Western Samoa.
7. A legal document codifying the result of deliberations of a committee or society or legislative body.
8. Of or relating to cilia projecting from the surface of a cell.
9. A sharp abrupt noise as if two objects hit together.
10. An archaic name for Easter or Passover.
11. The yield from plants in a single growing season.
12. A particular geographical region of indefinite boundary (usually serving some special purpose or distinguished by its people or culture or geography).
13. In an unnatural eery manner.
14. Establish or strengthen as with new evidence or facts.
15. Canadian literary critic interested in the use of myth and symbolism (1912-1991).
16. An association of people to promote the welfare of senior citizens.
17. Any of numerous low-growing cushion-forming plants of the genus Draba having rosette-forming leaves and terminal racemes of small flowers with scapose or leafy stems.
18. (computer science) The smallest discrete component of an image or picture on a CRT screen (usually a colored dot).
19. Tropical American feather palm having a swollen spiny trunk and edible nuts.
20. Water frozen in the solid state.
21. An intensely radioactive metallic element that occurs in minute amounts in uranium ores.
22. Made agreeably cold (especially by ice).
23. Informal abbreviation of 'gentleman'.
24. City in central Iran.
25. (architecture) Not arcuate.
26. Inability to coordinate voluntary muscle movements.
27. Small ornamental ladies' bag for small articles.
28. A firm open-weave fabric used for a curtain in the theater.
29. The capital and largest city of Bangladesh.
30. Characterized by undue haste and lack of thought or deliberation.
31. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
32. A lyric poem with complex stanza forms.
33. The range within which a voice can be heard.
34. A nucleic acid that transmits genetic information from DNA to the cytoplasm.
35. A colloid in a more solid form than a sol.
36. Any of several plants of the genus Achillea native to Europe and having small white flowers in flat-topped flower heads.
37. A young woman making her debut into society.

DOWN

1. A collection of objects laid on top of each other.
2. Type genus of the family Arcidae.
3. Telephone line (Wide Area Telephone Service).
4. United States writer (born in Poland) who wrote in Yiddish (1880-1957).
5. An intersection or crossing of two tracts in the form of the letter X.
6. A slippery or viscous liquid or liquefiable substance not miscible with water.
7. An agency of the United Nations responsible for programs to aid education and the health of children and mothers in developing countries.
8. A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
9. English writer who published a translation of romances about King Arthur taken from French and other sources (died in 1471).
10. A public promotion of some product or service.
11. A constitutional monarchy in southeastern Asia on Borneo and the Malay Peninsula.
12. South American armadillo with three bands of bony plates.
13. Grains used as food either unpolished or more often polished.
14. The basic unit of money in Bangladesh.
15. Tropical American trees with palmately compound leaves and showy bell-shaped flowers.
16. Dish baked in pastry-lined pan often with a pastry top.
17. Noisy quarrel.
18. The front of the head from the forehead to the chin and ear to ear.
19. The most common computer memory which can be used by programs to perform necessary tasks while the computer is on.
20. South American cavy.
21. Being new in a time not long past.
22. A river in Nebraska that flows eastward to become a tributary of the Missouri River.
23. An official prosecutor for a judicial district.
24. The month following January and preceding March.
25. An ore of boron consisting of hydrated sodium borate.
26. Egyptian statesman who (as President of Egypt) negotiated a peace treaty with Menachem Begin of Israel (1918-1981).
27. Small genus of Asian evergreen trees having columnar crowns and distinguished by leaves lacking a midrib.
28. Of or relating to the stomach and intestines.
29. Involving intelligence rather than emotions or instinct.
30. Resembling or characteristic of a prophet or prophecy.
31. A genus of Paridae.
32. A New England state.
33. (archaic) A burden (figuratively in the form of a bundle).
34. (Greek mythology) Greek goddess of the night.
35. Founder of Buddhism.
36. (of a young animal) Abandoned by its mother and raised by hand.
37. A Gaelic-speaking Celt in Ireland or Scotland or the Isle of Man.
38. One of a set of small pieces of stiff paper marked in various ways and used for playing games or for telling fortunes.
39. A stick that people can lean on to help them walk.
40. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
41. Committee formed by a special-interest group to raise money for their favorite political candidates.
42. The sixth day of the week.
43. (informal) Of the highest quality.
44. A blood group antigen possessed by Rh-positive people.

Yesterday's Solution



Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



A HOPE FOR ENDANGERED EELS, JAPANESE SUMMER DELICACY

FUJISAWA: The Japanese summer delicacy of roasted eel, braised with a tangy sauce and sprinkled with prickly mountain pepper, is in question as the creatures with their mysterious migrations become increasingly endangered. Soaring demand for Japanese eel, or *Anguilla japonica*, helped put the creatures on the International Union of Conservation of Nature's "Red List" of endangered species in 2014. It's spurring poaching of similar species off the US east coast.

But Katsumi Tsukamoto, "Dr. Eel" of the only "Eel Science Laboratory" at Nihon University in Japan, thinks he's unlocked the secrets to eventually farming the eels, known as unagi, sustainably and profitably. Tsukamoto found out where the eels are spawning, and that helped researchers study conditions needed to raise them from the egg stage to adulthood. The possibility of extinction, and soaring prices for grilled eel believed to help build stamina for enduring sweltering summer days, have dismayed many Japanese gourmands and the restaurants that specialize in the dish.

Despite their important role in Japanese food culture, until recently very little was known about the life cycles of eels, such as where they spawned and how tiny, nearly transparent glass eels manage to travel back to their freshwater habitats in Asia and elsewhere. Supplies depend on wild-catching the juveniles and farm raising them until adulthood, a practice that has spread from Japan to Taiwan and mainland China as demand has surged.



TOKYO: In this Aug 2, 2017 photo, Shinji Hashimoto, owner of Michelin one-star unagi restaurant, grills the skewered eels over charcoal before steaming and more grilling with sauce. — AP

Tsukamoto says his discovery of Japanese eel larvae and spawning adults west of the Mariana Ridge, near Guam, in 2009 has enabled him and other researchers to figure out the right diet and environmental conditions for spawning eels and their offspring.

Despite skepticism about the potential for such farming to work, Tsukamoto says three Japanese state-owned laboratories already are able to raise the eels from the larval stage and get them to spawn, completing their life cycle. But for now each lab can raise only about 3,000-4,000 a year. A lack of funds is hindering construction of the infrastructure needed to make such operations com-

mercially viable by producing tens of thousands of eels a year. The complete farming of eels and some other endangered species as a way to help them survive by relieving the pressure from soaring demand. Fisherman Masataka Uchida, who sells wild caught "blue eel," or ao-unagi, shrugs off any potential competition from farming. Depending on the environment, some eels have a tough texture and pungent, muddy taste that even unagi aficionados may find off-putting. Uchida's eels, with their pale blue-gray skin and soft pink bellies, have a highly sought-after, light and clean flavor that fetches premium prices even in the pricey unagi market. — AP

1ST MEDICAL MARIJUANA DISPENSARY IN HAWAII

HONOLULU: Dispensary sales of medical marijuana in Hawaii are beginning after patients waited 17 years for a legal way to purchase the drug. Maui Grown Therapies received approval from the Department of Health to begin selling medical cannabis Tuesday. The dispensary sold medical marijuana to patients for two hours Tuesday, limiting their hours to help manage the new process, said Teri Freitas Gorman, director of community relations and patient affairs.

"Clearly this is a historic day not just for Maui but for the state of Hawaii," Freitas Gorman said. "This is the first time in Hawaii that patients will be able to buy lab-tested, quality-assured medical cannabis from a state-licensed dispensary. We're so excited." The Maui dispensary pre-registered patients and began selling medical cannabis to patients by appointment only. They made 22 transactions and there were some software glitches, but patients were very excited, Freitas Gorman said. Marijuana was sold for \$20 per gram and \$90 to \$125 for a quarter-ounce, depending on the strain. Walk-in sales will start in about a week.

"This is an important day for qualified patients and caregivers on Maui who now have assurance the medical cannabis they purchase at Maui Grown Therapies has been thoroughly tested and is safe for them to use," said Virginia Pressler, director of the state Department of Health, in a statement. "Implementing a new health program is always challenging, and the dispensary program was no exception." Hawaii was among the first states to legalize medical marijuana in 2000. But the state didn't legalize dispensaries until 2015, so the state's 18,000 patients had to grow or obtain the drug on their own.

Hawaii granted licenses to eight medical marijuana dispensaries throughout the Hawaiian islands last year. Several dispensaries began growing and harvesting the product, but they were unable to sell it because until recently the state had not certified a lab. Honolulu-based dispensary Aloha Green was inspected Tuesday by the Department of Health and later announced it would open for sales Wednesday. The dispensary says the price will include costs unique to Hawaii, including high electricity prices, lab testing, substantial taxes and a delay in sales for over a year. — AP

CLINIC
PAGE



Kuwait Times
THE LATEST NEWS FROM KUWAIT AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
د. فهد علي المخيزيم
Consultant Pediatrician استشاري أطفال
M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAP. PEM

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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



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Duhr: 11:53
Asr: 15:29
Maghrib: 18:33
Isha: 19:57



KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (10/08/2017 TO 16/08/2017)



SHARQIA-1 KIDNAP 12:15 PM DUNKIRK 2:15 PM THE DARK TOWER 4:30 PM THE EMOJI MOVIE 6:30 PM DUNKIRK 8:30 PM THE DARK TOWER 10:45 PM KIDNAP 12:45 AM	FANAR-2 THE EMOJI MOVIE 12:15 PM KIDNAP 2:15 PM THE EMOJI MOVIE 4:15 PM THE EMOJI MOVIE 6:15 PM KIDNAP 8:15 PM KIDNAP 10:15 PM KIDNAP 12:15 AM	JAB HARRY MET SEJAL -Hindi 1:45 PM THE HATTON GARDEN JOB 4:55 PM THE HATTON GARDEN JOB 7:00 PM THE HATTON GARDEN JOB 9:00 PM FIRST KILL 11:00 PM FIRST KILL 1:10 AM	AVENUES-8 THE DARK TOWER 1:00 PM TISBAH ALA KHAIR 3:00 PM JAB HARRY MET SEJAL -Hindi 5:15 PM THE EMOJI MOVIE 8:00 PM THE DARK TOWER 10:00 PM THE DARK TOWER 12:10 AM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES 4:15 PM WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES 7:05 PM WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES 9:50 PM FIRST KILL 12:35 AM
SHARQIA-2 ANTAR IBN IBN IBN SHADAD -Arabic 12:00 PM ANTAR IBN IBN IBN SHADAD -Arabic 2:45 PM DUNKIRK 5:15 PM ANTAR IBN IBN IBN SHADAD -Arabic 7:30 PM ANTAR IBN IBN IBN SHADAD -Arabic 10:00 PM ANTAR IBN IBN IBN SHADAD -Arabic 12:30 AM	FANAR-3 RESIDENT EVIL: VENDETTA- Arabic 11:30 AM JAB HARRY MET SEJAL -Hindi 1:45 PM TOILET - EK PREM KATHA- Hindi 4:30 PM JAB HARRY MET SEJAL -Hindi 7:30 PM RESIDENT EVIL: VENDETTA- Arabic 10:30 PM RESIDENT EVIL: VENDETTA- Arabic 12:45 AM	AVENUES-2 DUNKIRK -2D-4DX 12:30 PM THE EMOJI MOVIE-3D-4DX 2:45 PM WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES -3D-4DX 4:45 PM THE EMOJI MOVIE-3D-4DX 7:30 PM DUNKIRK -2D-4DX 9:30 PM THE DARK TOWER-2D-4DX 11:45 PM	AVENUES-9 THE EMOJI MOVIE- Arabic 12:15 PM THE EMOJI MOVIE -3D 2:30 PM THE EMOJI MOVIE- Arabic 4:30 PM THE EMOJI MOVIE 6:30 PM JAB HARRY MET SEJAL -Hindi 8:45 PM JAB HARRY MET SEJAL -Hindi 11:45 PM	AL-KOUT.1 ANTAR IBN IBN IBN SHADAD -Arabic 11:45 AM ANTAR IBN IBN IBN SHADAD -Arabic 2:15 PM ANTAR IBN IBN IBN SHADAD -Arabic 4:30 PM ANTAR IBN IBN IBN SHADAD -Arabic 7:15 PM ANTAR IBN IBN IBN SHADAD -Arabic 9:30 PM ANTAR IBN IBN IBN SHADAD -Arabic 12:05 AM
SHARQIA-3 THE EMOJI MOVIE 11:45 AM THE EMOJI MOVIE 1:45 PM WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES 3:45 PM JAB HARRY MET SEJAL -Hindi 6:30 PM KIDNAP 9:30 PM KIDNAP 11:30 PM	FANAR-4 ANTAR IBN IBN IBN SHADAD -Arabic 12:00 PM THE EMOJI MOVIE- Arabic 2:40 PM ANTAR IBN IBN IBN SHADAD -Arabic 5:00 PM ANTAR IBN IBN IBN SHADAD -Arabic 7:40 PM ANTAR IBN IBN IBN SHADAD -Arabic 10:00 PM ANTAR IBN IBN IBN SHADAD -Arabic 12:30 AM	AVENUES-3 DUNKIRK 1:30 PM DUNKIRK 3:45 PM DUNKIRK 6:00 PM DUNKIRK 8:30 PM KIDNAP 10:45 PM KIDNAP 12:45 AM	AVENUES-10 WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES 11:30 AM WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES 2:15 PM WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES 5:00 PM TISBAH ALA KHAIR 7:45 PM BABY DRIVER 9:45 PM ATOMIC BLONDE 12:05 AM	AL-KOUT.2 47 METERS DOWN 12:00 PM THE DARK TOWER 2:00 PM THE EMOJI MOVIE 4:00 PM DUNKIRK 6:15 PM 47 METERS DOWN 8:30 PM THE DARK TOWER 10:30 PM 47 METERS DOWN 12:30 AM
MUHALAB-1 JAB HARRY MET SEJAL -Hindi 12:30 PM THE DARK TOWER 1:30 PM FRI DUNKIRK 3:30 PM DUNKIRK 5:45 PM JAB HARRY MET SEJAL -Hindi 8:00 PM THE HATTON GARDEN JOB 10:45 PM THE DARK TOWER 12:45 AM	FANAR-5 WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES 11:45 AM WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES 2:30 PM THE HATTON GARDEN JOB 5:15 PM 47 METERS DOWN 7:15 PM THE HATTON GARDEN JOB 9:15 PM 47 METERS DOWN 11:15 PM THE HATTON GARDEN JOB 1:15 AM	AVENUES-4 THE EMOJI MOVIE 11:35 AM JAB HARRY MET SEJAL -Hindi 1:35 PM THE EMOJI MOVIE 4:35 PM JAB HARRY MET SEJAL -Hindi 6:35 PM NO SUN Special Show "KIDNAP" 6:35 PM SUN DUNKIRK 9:30 PM JAB HARRY MET SEJAL -Hindi 11:45 PM	AVENUES-11 ANTAR IBN IBN IBN SHADAD -Arabic- CINESCAPE 11-2D 12:45 PM ANTAR IBN IBN IBN SHADAD -Arabic- CINESCAPE 11-2D 3:10 PM ANTAR IBN IBN IBN SHADAD -Arabic- CINESCAPE 11-2D 5:35 PM ANTAR IBN IBN IBN SHADAD -Arabic- CINESCAPE 11-2D 8:00 PM THE DARK TOWER -CINESCAPE 11-2D 10:15 PM THE DARK TOWER -CINESCAPE 11-2D 12:35 AM	AL-KOUT.3 THE EMOJI MOVIE 1:00 PM KIDNAP 3:00 PM THE EMOJI MOVIE 5:00 PM THE EMOJI MOVIE 7:00 PM KIDNAP 9:00 PM KIDNAP 11:00 PM KIDNAP 1:00 AM
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Friday Times BUSINESS

FRIDAY, AUGUST 11, 2017



Uprooted entrepreneurs form 'Little Damascus'

FOUNDATIONS FOR POST-LIBOR SYSTEM SLIDING INTO PLACE

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HAVERTHILL: A customer inserts a credit card to buy gas in Haverhill, Mass. The more you know about credit cards, how they work and how they fit into your financial life, the more likely you are to use them wisely. — AP

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR CREDIT CARDS?

NEW YORK: Using a credit card doesn't require much effort or experience. Swipe, insert or click and you can charge what you want within the credit limit. Understanding credit cards, however, takes some knowledge. The more you know about credit cards, how they work and how they fit into your financial life, the more likely you are to use them wisely. Here are some common questions and answers about credit card basics.

Your credit score

Using a credit card has an impact on two of the biggest factors in your credit score: credit utilization and payment history. Utilization is the percentage of available credit currently used. If you have a limit of \$5,000, for example, and a balance of \$1,000, utilization is 20 percent. Utilization tends to have a negative impact on credit scores once it passes 30 percent. Late or missed payments can put a dent in your credit score, although the extent of the damage depends on your overall credit. How you use credit cards can have a far-reaching impact on your finances. Your credit score affects your ability to borrow money for major purchases such as a car or home as well as how much you'll pay in interest.

Your credit report

Credit score is calculated from information in your credit report. Most big card issuers report account activity to the three major credit bureaus - Experian, Equifax and TransUnion - every month. But some card issuers report only to one or

two, or even none. If you're trying to build credit, look for a card that reports to all three; if it's not clear, contact the issuer. This way, payments will show up in your credit score, regardless of which report was used to calculate it.

Having a good score

If you don't know the answer, you're not alone. A knowledge gap exists for many people, according to Rod Griffin, public education director at Experian. "They'll hear things like you should use 30 percent of your credit limit to have good credit scores, which is not true," Griffin says. There's no requirement that you carry a particular balance to achieve or maintain a good score.

'No Interest'

Promotional language such as "no interest for 12 months" often hides the fact that interest is accruing on a purchase. This is known as "deferred interest," and it's commonly found with credit cards issued by retailers. With deferred interest, if you pay off the purchase within the promotional period, you won't pay interest. But if any amount in the balance is left over at the end of the promotion, interest can be charged on the entire amount, going back to the time of the purchase. A balance of even 25 cents could mean that you'll have to pay hundreds of dollars in interest. By contrast, on bank-issued credit cards with 0 percent APR promotions, interest doesn't accrue.

Closing a credit card

Closing a credit card account lowers the amount of credit you have available, which can increase credit utilization - and possibly hurt your credit score. Renee VerCruyse of Perris, California, says she learned that the hard way. "I signed up for a couple of credit cards not knowing what the conditions were," VerCruyse says. After she closed a card, her credit score suffered. When VerCruyse applied for a car loan, she said she was rejected due to the drop in her score and her short credit history. If a card doesn't charge an annual fee, you may be better off leaving the account open and making the occasional purchase with it to keep it active.

What can card do for you?

Many credit cards offer substantial protections for qualifying purchases. Check with your card issuer for benefits, which may include: Extended warranty can add up to a year of coverage if there's a manufacturer's warranty. Purchase protection covers theft and damage up to 90 days after purchase. Price protection refunds the difference when items are advertised at a lower price later. Return protection offers a refund for items a store won't take back. Beyond those protections, many cards offer benefits such as rental car insurance, free credit scores or online shopping discounts. Details, and answers to other questions, are in your card member agreement, which you can access online if you threw out the paper version. — AP

FIAT CHRYSLER EMPLOYEE PLEADS GUILTY TO FRAUD SCHEME

CHICAGO: A former Fiat Chrysler employee has pleaded guilty to charges of fraud and tax violations as part of a case that involves skimming money meant for training autoworkers into the pockets of labor union and company officials. In the case that has implicated former US executives at the company and at the United Autoworkers Union, Jerome Durden, who worked as a financial analyst for the automaker's American subsidiary, reached a plea agreement with US prosecutors announced late Tuesday night.

And investigators revealed in court documents that they are still probing a number of other people in the alleged scheme to take money from a training program for union workers, including at least one other UAW employee. Durden admitted that he and his co-conspirators used the UAW-Chrysler National Training Center as a conduit to conceal over \$1 million "in prohibited payments and things of value" paid to UAW Vice President General Holiefield, who died in 2015, and other UAW officials, the court documents said.

And a US Labor Department official said in a statement that Durden had conspired to divert more than \$4.5 million from a union training fund and failed to report taxable income. "We will continue to work with our law enforcement partners to combat crimes that deprive American workers of training opportunities," Labor Department investigator James Vanderberg said in a statement.

A Detroit grand jury in July indicted former FCA US executive Alphons Iacobelli, who was in charge of negotiating and administering collective bargaining agreements, and Holiefield's widow Monica Morgan. Prosecutors alleged Iacobelli hid illegal payments and gifts over a five-year period ending in 2014, including designer clothing, jewelry and furniture, and paid off a \$262,219 mortgage on Holiefield and Morgan's residence.

"Mr. Darden's criminal conduct was part of a broader pattern of dishonesty and collusion among those implicated in this investigation," the FBI's David Gelios said in a statement. The ongoing federal probe comes at a time when the UAW has struggled to unionize new auto factories in southern US states. Workers at a Nissan plant in Mississippi last week rejected a bid to join the UAW. The union criticized the auto maker for engaging in scare tactics, which included telling workers the union was just after their dues money.

And in 2014, workers at a Volkswagen plant in Tennessee also voted against joining the UAW. The union said it has 55,000 members in southern factories, accounting for 13 percent of its active membership. Meanwhile, Fiat Chrysler is facing challenges of its own. European and US regulators allege some of its diesel cars also had "defeat devices" to cheat on emissions tests, similar to those Volkswagen admitted using. — AFP

BUOYANT BITCOIN STIRS CRYPTO-BUBBLE FEARS

CRITICS WARN OF BUBBLE, ADVOCATES SAY BULL RUN AHEAD

LONDON: Bitcoin and other "cryptocurrencies" are big money, virtually as big as Goldman Sachs and Royal Bank of Scotland combined. The price of a single bitcoin hit an all-time high of above \$3,500 this week, dragging up the value of hundreds of newer, smaller digital rivals in its wake. Now some investors fear a giant crypto-bubble may be about to burst.

It has been a year of unprecedented growth for the largely unregulated market, with dozens of new currencies appearing every month in "Initial Coin Offerings" or ICOs. They have achieved value almost instantly, drawing in those who are eager to get in and make a quick buck. At the start of 2017, the total value - or market cap - of all cryptocurrencies in existence was about \$17.5 billion, with bitcoin making up almost 90 percent of that, according to industry data firm CoinMarketCap.

It is now around \$120 billion - around the same value as Goldman and RBS together - and bitcoin makes up only 46 percent. Bitcoin Cash, a clone of bitcoin that was split off from the original last week by a rival group of developers, was valued at more than \$12 billion less than 24 hours after it had started trading.

"It's just created new value out of nowhere," said Rob Moffat, a partner at Balderton Capital, a London-based venture capital firm who focuses on fintech. "There's no fundamentals behind any of this - it's all based on public perception, so you can start to see some really strange phenomena."

Cryptocurrencies - so-called because cryptography is used to keep transactions secure - allow anonymous peer-to-peer transactions between individual users, without the need for

banks or central banks. They use blockchain technology, a shared record-keeping and processing system that means digital money cannot be copied and spent more than once.

Billionaire US investor Howard Marks likens the market to the dotcom bubble of the turn of the century - whose demise he predicted. He said in a recent investor letter that digital currencies were an "unfounded fad ... based on a willingness to ascribe value to something that has little or none beyond what people will pay for it".

But advocates of cryptocurrencies say 2017 is just the beginning of bull run. They argue the finite nature of these currency units - there will never be more than 21 million bitcoin, for example - as well as the technological innovation that underpins them will ensure their enduring value. "The idea of this thing being a bubble is silly. We're in the bottom of the first innings," said Miguel Vias of Ripple, the third-biggest cryptocurrency, who was previously global head of precious metals and metal options at CME Group.

Dash to Ether

Whichever way cryptocurrencies move, they are likely to move together because their values are highly correlated, feeding off each other and magnifying the market effect. That's partly down to investor sentiment, but also because the start-ups issuing new coins in ICOs generally collect money in a more liquid cryptocurrency, such as bitcoin or, more commonly, Ethereum's ether - the second-biggest cryptocurrency in total value.

That has driven demand for ether, which has climbed over 3,000 percent so far this year and now has a market cap of around \$28 billion. Bitcoin,

which was launched in 2009, was the first successful cryptocurrency and is still easily the biggest, with a market cap of over \$54 billion. Its price has shot up around 225 percent so this year, and performed better than any conventional, central-bank issued currency in every year since 2010 bar 2014.

The blockchain-based currencies that have been built since bitcoin - 842, at last count - vary hugely in terms of their credibility. Sceptics say bitcoin and its rivals are not particularly useful as currencies, as they are still volatile and not accepted by most merchants. They are mostly just used for speculative trading purposes.

There are some signs of acceptance of the biggest players by the establishment, however; Ethereum has been piloted by the United Nations as a way to distribute funds to Syrian refugees. Ripple has been successfully used as a payment method between settlement systems in a Bank of England trial. Some other, smaller cryptocurrencies such as Dash, Monero and Z-cash are seen as having real value by some users because they offer an even higher level of anonymity than the likes of bitcoin. Whistle-blowing website Wikileaks this week said it would accept Z-cash for online donations.

It is mainly the new "token" cryptocurrencies that are issued in ICOs with no regulatory oversight, which have exploded since the start of the year, that are causing the most anxiety. One, the "Useless Ethereum Token", which appears to have been set up as a way of showing how worthless many of the ICOs really are, is nonetheless changing hands for 3 cents a unit. "No value, no security, and no product. Just me, spending your money," its website states. — Reuters

INDIA'S WILD ENERGY TRENDS RAISE DOUBTS OVER COAL'S FUTURE

NEW DELHI: Within the wild energy market of the world's second-most populous nation, predictions are proving tricky. India had been projected to become a carbon-belching behemoth, fueled by thermal power plants demanding ever more coal for decades to come. Now, some analysts are saying that may not happen. In the last two years, coal consumption has slowed to its lowest level in two decades, even with the economy growing at a steamy 7 percent annual pace. Thermal power plants have been running below full capacity for years and as of June were operating at only 57 percent of total capacity, the lowest level ever.

India is the world's third-largest carbon emitter and relies on coal-fired power plants to produce most of its energy. With a population of 1.3 billion and a fast-industrializing economy, those energy needs had been forecast to soar. So signs that the country's appetite for burning more coal may be close to sated would be welcome news, given fears of a looming escalation in climate-warming carbon emissions. "India's future coal demand could actually be near flat," said Tim Buckley, the Asia energy finance director for the Cleveland-based Institute

for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis. "The technology-driven changes are happening faster than predicted."

A similar correction is under way in China, where officials and analysts have had to walk back earlier predictions that its annual coal needs would peak in 2030. Instead, the International Energy Agency says China's coal use - and emissions - topped out in 2013. The rate of increase in coal consumption in India is now the slowest it's been since 2000, apart from an anomalous 1 percent rate of growth in 2011. Last year, it dropped to 1.5 percent from the decade's average of 6 percent. This year, it's slightly higher at 2.8 percent.

The slowdown is expected to continue, partly due to manufacturing output dropping to 7.9 percent in fiscal 2016-17, after an average of 9 percent for 2004-08 and a high of 12.3 percent in 2006-07. But there are other important factors at play, including fast progress in adding renewable energy capacity and new measures to improve energy efficiency. Buckley lays out a scenario where India's coal consumption might come close to peaking within the next decade, if not sooner. —AP



MUMBAI: Candidates wait outside the examination hall for the last official typing exam conducted by the state government in Mumbai. The unmistakable chatter of typewriters outside courthouses and government offices will soon fall silent in India's financial capital Mumbai as stenography colleges on August 11 hold their final manual exams. The roughly 3,500 institutes teaching the antiquated ways of the typewriter across Maharashtra state will be phased out as India pushes ahead with a drive to digitize the economy. — AFP

GLENCORE SEES SHINY FUTURE FROM ELECTRIC VEHICLES

ZURICH: Mining and commodities giant Glencore said yesterday it had bounced back into profit in the first half of the year and the long-term outlook was good as the widespread adoption of electric vehicles would boost demand for raw materials. Net profit at the Switzerland-based company came in at \$2.4 billion (two billion euros) compared to a loss of \$369 million in the first half of last year on the back of a rebound in commodity prices and efforts by the firm to clean up its balance sheet.

When commodity prices nosedived in 2015, investors turned on Glencore amid concerns that the company's towering debt, which had hit \$30

billion, could prove unsustainable with the value of its assets in decline. The company's losses hit a staggering \$5 billion that year. Chief executive Ivan Glasenberg, seen as a maverick in the mining world, acted boldly to get debt under control.

He scrapped dividends, sold assets and reined in production in a campaign that has now trimmed debt to \$13.9 billion. "Our extensive efforts to reposition our balance sheet and drive further industrial asset portfolio improvements over the last 24 months, are reflected in our strong first-half financial performance," Glasenberg said in a statement. Not only net profit improved, but its measure of

operating profits also jumped by over two-thirds to \$6.7 billion. Glasenberg said the shift towards electric vehicles would be good for Glencore.

"As we look forward, the potential large-scale roll out of electric vehicles and energy storage systems looks set to unlock material new sources of demand for enabling underlying commodities, including copper, cobalt, zinc and nickel," said Glasenberg. US electric carmaker Tesla last month began delivering its Model 3 to customers. The vehicle is its first mass market vehicle, which it wants to produce at a rate of 10,000 per week by next year. —AFP



MUMBAI: Indian members of the Maratha community in the state of Maharashtra cross a flyover as they take part in a rally in Mumbai. — AFP

WATCHDOG TO PROBE WATCHMAKERS OVER SPARE PARTS SUPPLY

ZURICH: Swiss competition authority WEKO may investigate Swiss watchmakers after getting complaints from independent repair centres and customers about the restrictive supply of spare parts, an official told Reuters. A WEKO investigation could lead to a fine and would increase pressure on industry majors Swatch Group, Richemont and unlisted Rolex to make spare parts available beyond their network of accredited repairers.

While watch brands say only their accredited repair centres offer the best quality service to customers, independent repairers say they are cheaper and often faster and that clients should be free to do what they want with their watches. "We received complaints from independent watch repairers who no longer had access to parts, but also from customers who were unhappy they could not get their watch repaired wherever they wanted," WEKO Deputy Director Patrik Ducrey told Reuters yesterday.

"We are doing preliminary checks at the moment to see if there are indications that watchmakers unlawfully limit the access to parts for independent watch repairers. By this autumn, we should be able to decide whether to open an investigation," Ducrey said. A potential WEKO investigation is not the only headwind watchmakers are facing over the restrictive supply of spare parts.

Swatch Group is engaged in a legal battle with British material house Cousins UK that sells watch spare parts to independent repairers. It said it stopped receiving supplies from Swatch Group and its ETA movement unit at the end of 2015. Christian Dannemann, an independent watch repairer and a director of The British Watch & Clockmakers' Guild that supports Cousins's action against Swatch, said he could not do his job without spare parts. "Just imagine what would happen if car makers started restricting supplies in that way. The Swiss brands really need to understand that once they've sold the watch, it no longer belongs to them," Dannemann said. — Reuters

FOUNDATIONS FOR POST-LIBOR SYSTEM SLIDING INTO PLACE

BOE MARKET GROUP HAS BLUEPRINT FOR NEW SONIA-BASED FUTURES

LONDON: Critical steps for replacing Libor could be taken by next year, British industry officials told Reuters, increasing the chances of a smooth transition from the interest rate benchmark used to price financial contracts worth tens of trillions of pounds. When regulators announced last month that scandal-plagued Libor would be replaced by the end of 2021, there was scepticism among some industry players over whether such a huge transition could take place on time - or even at all.

But preparations are already underway to put in place two essential elements for the planned replacement, SONIA, to assume its role in the market. The clearing arm of the London Stock Exchange, which already clears short-dated SONIA swaps - products used to hedge against adverse moves in rates or currencies - told Reuters it was planning to clear the kind of longer-dated swaps covered by Libor.

An industry group, whose members include the 16 top dealers of swaps and other derivatives, meanwhile said it aimed to create SONIA futures contracts. Francois Jourdain, who chairs the group set up by the Bank of England to promote adoption of SONIA, said he had no doubt that the transition would take place. "It will happen," he said. "It may be difficult, it may happen on a different time frame depending on different levels of difficulty, but it will happen."

Such moves would be crucial, but even should they come to pass, hurdles would remain to the adoption of SONIA across the British financial industry. Concerns about the costs associated with changing over - such as in altering IT systems - could deter some companies, particularly those enacting expensive Brexit contingency plans. Sectors like insurance could also face formidable technical, and potentially legal, hurdles if they were to switch from Libor to assess future liabilities.

Libor Scandal

Libor - the London Interbank Offered Rate - is a daily rate in a range of currencies which is used to price contracts ranging from home loans and credit cards to derivatives. It is based on submissions from banks of interest rates they believe they would be charged by others for borrowing money. Banks have been fined billions of dollars for trying to manipulate the benchmark, prompting regulators to come up with alternatives.

Last month the UK's Financial Conduct Authority set the end-2021 deadline for switching to the Bank of England's Sterling Overnight Index Average - SONIA - based on transactions done in the market, rather than Libor-style estimates. Currently derivatives contracts worth 7.7 trillion pounds are priced against SONIA, but mainly short-term contracts going out 18 months in duration. This compares with Libor-based contracts worth about 30 trillion pounds going out to 50 years.

While the industry group, whose members include the likes of Barclays, BNP Paribas, Citi, Deutsche Bank and HSBC, have backed SONIA as the alternative for Libor, making the change won't be easy or quick. Industry officials say two crucial milestones must be passed to encourage the switch: a range of exchange-traded futures contracts referencing SONIA; and a clearing house for SONIA swaps traded "over-the-counter" or privately between banks.

LCH, the clearing arm of the London Stock Exchange, said it was about to seek permission from the Bank of England - which regulates clearing houses - to clear longer-dated swaps. Clearing provides a big financial incentive for banks to switch

because they must hold more cash against uncleared swaps than against those that pass through a clearing house like LCH. "We are planning to extend the eligibility of SONIA interest rate swaps out to 51 years before the end of 2017, as well as developing other SONIA-based over-the-counter and exchange-traded products," LCH told Reuters.

'Atomic Elements'

Jourdain said the working group he chairs would flesh out later this quarter the "atomic elements" needed to promote adoption, including a futures contract referencing SONIA, though it would be up to exchanges whether they listed the products. Exchange traded futures are seen as cheaper and more transparent by many market participants and can build up liquidity rapidly, thereby boosting confidence to switch. "It can go quite quickly, because the requirements for creating a new future are simpler than for cleared swaps," said Jourdain, who is also head of compliance at Barclays International. "Early next year would be my hope." The bulk of volume in Libor-based futures contracts is listed on the InterContinental Exchange, whose IBA unit also administers Libor.

ICE faces a dilemma as listing futures contracts could hasten the demise of Libor, but industry officials said it faced little choice as it would otherwise lose business to a rival. "It's a commercial dilemma of self-cannibalization," said one senior official at a dealing bank. ICE has said Libor had a long-term future, and would not comment on whether it would list SONIA futures products. Eurex, the futures trading arm of Germany's Deutsche Boerse would also not comment on offering SONIA futures. US exchange CME, the third big derivatives exchange, also declined to comment - though it will offer futures in the Libor alternative rate being published daily by the New York Federal Reserve next year.

EU Hurdle

Jourdain said the key hurdle to SONIA adoption was inertia. Market participants could balk at the prospect of change and costs at a time when many are facing major projects, like complying with new European securities rules (MiFID) from next January, or preparing for Britain's EU exit. "This has been a major focus for our members, especially since the new risk-free rates were selected in Japan, the UK and United States, because of the sheer volume of outstanding derivatives trades referenced to Libor," said Rick Sandilands, senior counsel in Europe for the International Swaps and Derivatives Association (ISDA), a global industry body.

ISDA is working on ways to smooth the transition, such as by identifying fallbacks that can be written into derivatives documentation, creating certainty on which reference rate would be used if Libor was suddenly discontinued. The trade body has also determined that a "spread" should be added to SONIA to lessen the impact on moving from a rate that stretches out many years to one based on overnight markets.

As Libor extends many years, the holder of a swap contract can work out the interest payment well ahead of the due date. SONIA, however, is an overnight rate, meaning payment due several months away would be based on a rate compounded over the intervening period. But other, more technical changes would also be needed to encourage a sizable switch to SONIA from the insurance sector. — Reuters



IDLIB: A Syrian man prepares food at the Ibad Al-Rahman's Damascene Delicacies in the rebel-controlled northern city of Idlib. —AFP



IDLIB: A general view shows Syrian men standing outside the Sultan Daraya restaurant in the rebel-controlled northern city of Idlib. —AFP

UPROOTED ENTREPRENEURS FORM 'LITTLE DAMASCUS'

IDLIB: On a bustling street in northwest Syria, young restaurateur Abdulrahim Abulezz serves up juicy chicken wraps crafted according to a traditional recipe from his hometown Daraya, which he left last year.

His restaurant Sultan Daraya sits in a row of shops and eateries run by Syrians who quit their formerly rebel-held towns around the capital Damascus under deals with the regime. With names like Madaya Supermarket and Ibad Al-Rahman's Damascene Delicacies, the shops have turned this quarter of rebel-controlled Idlib into a "Little Damascus."

Sultan Daraya's sandwiches are a particular hit among those missing a taste of home. "We named it 'Sultan Daraya' because that's where we came from," said 24-year-old Abulezz, the restaurant's enterprising owner. His speciality is the mouthwatering shawarma sandwich, filled with chicken roasted on a vertical spit and shaved onto a bed of pita bread stuffed with tomatoes, spicy peppers and special sauces. "We bring the spices and prepare our traditional Damascene hot sauce. That's why our shawarma is distinctly Damascene," Abulezz said proudly.

"We even add a Damascene marinade to the roasted chicken—a secret recipe that no one knows here." The blend hails from his family's restaurant in Daraya, one of the first towns to revolt against Syria's government when protests broke out in 2011. At the time, Abulezz left university to join rebels defending Daraya, which soon came under crippling government siege. But in August 2016, he was among thousands of fighters and civilians bussed out of the town to opposition-held Idlib after a settlement with the regime.

'Good old days of Daraya'

Tens of thousands of people have been displaced to Idlib province under similar "reconciliation" deals ending government siege and bombardment in exchange for rebels and other residents leaving. About two months ago, Abulezz opened up Sultan Daraya in Idlib city. He now boasts seven employees: five from Daraya, another from third city Homs which the government also recaptured after rebel evacuations, and Abu Ali, from Eastern Ghouta near Damascus.

As he shaved chicken slices from the spit, 25-year-old Abu Ali crooned a nostalgic ode to Damascus. "Most of my customers are people from Madaya, Zabadani, Daraya, and Moadamiyet Al-Sham," Abulezz said, listing towns around Damascus under "reconciliation" deals. "Everyone from the capital's suburbs has chased these Damascene specialties," he said. Indeed, Daraya natives were flocking to Abulezz's restaurant on the day of AFP's visit.

Abu Hamdan, a furniture seller living in Atmeah near the border with Turkey, said he eats at Sultan Daraya "just to remember the smell of Damascus." "Coming to these restaurants reminds us of Daraya, of its people and their food. Being displaced is like sucking the soul out of the body," the 50-year-old said. Carpenter Abu Imad, 50, is also a regular visitor. "I come to Idlib city every time I need to buy some merchandise, so we drop by friends from our hometown," Abu Imad said. "I don't have a favorite dish. I come here to remember, to go back to the good old days of Daraya."

Daraya-style falafel

Along the same street lies Ibad Al-Rahman's Damascene Delicacies, which dishes out hummus, fava beans drizzled in olive oil, and deep-fried falafel. The owner, 22-year-old Mohammad Nuh, also imported his succulent recipes from his family's restaurant in Daraya. "When I was 10, my father had a restaurant in Daraya. My brothers and I used to work there, which is where I learned the trade," he said. "I prepare the food here the exact same way." Inside, his three employees are cubing fresh tomatoes, chopping parsley bouquets, and dipping mashed chickpea mixtures into sizzling olive oil to make falafel. "I had to go into debt to open up this restaurant. It took a lot of hard work, but finally I have my own place," Nuh said. "It was a coincidence that we all ended up on this street. Most of us didn't know each other before, but we opened several different businesses," he said. Just like Sultan Daraya, Nuh's restaurant attracts customers whose palates are used to Damascene flavors. "Idlibis love hot sauce so much they put it on everything. This ruins the food," Nuh said. "We're introducing them to new recipes so they can actually taste the dish and its ingredients."

One regular is Abu Mukhtar, who hails from Madaya, another town near Damascus that has been evacuated. "We Damascenes are known for our love of good food, which we always found in local restaurants in Daraya, Madaya, or other areas in the suburbs," said Abu Mukhtar. The lanky, silver-haired Syrian teamed up with other Madayans to establish a supermarket named after their beloved hometown. "We decided with neighboring businesses also owned by displaced people that we'll shop at each others' places for mutual benefit." —AFP

US WHOLESALE PRICES SLIP

WASHINGTON: Prices at the wholesale level slipped in July, the first decline in 11 months and further evidence that inflation remains a no-show in the economy. The Labor Department said yesterday that its producer price index, which measures inflation pressures before they reach the consumer, edged down 0.1 percent last month, reflecting a third month of declines in energy prices and a flat reading for food.

The July result followed a tiny 0.1 percent gain in June. It was the first drop in wholesale prices since a decline of 0.2 percent last August. Core inflation, which excludes volatile food and energy costs, also fell last month by 0.1 percent. Over the past 12 months, wholesale prices are up a moderate 1.9 percent, while core prices have risen 1.8 percent.

Inflation has been low throughout this recovery. For the past five years, it has fallen below the Federal Reserve's target for annual price gains of 2 percent a year. At the beginning of this year, inflation by a gauge pre-

ferred by the Fed did climb as high as 2.2 percent gain in February compared to a year ago. But it has since backtracked and in June registered a 12-month gain of just 1.4 percent. The Fed raised interest rates in March and June, but economists believe it will put further rate hikes on hold until at least December, waiting to see if inflation resumes rising again to the 2 percent target.

Fed Chair Janet Yellen told Congress last month that she believes tight labor markets will start producing higher wage gains and increased inflation. Unemployment in July returned to a 16-year low of 4.3 percent. The 0.1 percent dip in wholesale prices in July reflected a 0.3 percent drop in energy costs in July, which followed even bigger declines in May and June. Last month, the gasoline, natural gas and home heating oil all showed declines. Food costs showed no gain in July after rising by 0.6 percent in June. The Labor Department will release its report on consumer prices on Friday. —AP

GLOBAL STOCKS SHUDDER AS TRUMP WARNS NORTH KOREA

NEW YORK: World stock markets slid yesterday as worries about US-North Korea tensions sent traders fleeing to safe-haven investments. Analysts pointed to the harsh threats and sabre rattling from US President Donald Trump, including a message Wednesday on Twitter boasting that the US nuclear arsenal was now "more powerful than ever before." UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said he was deeply concerned about the tensions on the Korean Peninsula and was "troubled" by the increase in confrontational rhetoric. In Europe, equities dived with London losing 0.6 percent, while Frankfurt shed 1.1 percent and Paris fell 1.4 percent.

The news was also greeted with dismay by traders in Asia, with Tokyo down 1.3 percent, Hong Kong losing 0.4 percent and Seoul registering a 1.1-percent decline. US stocks also fell, lingering in negative territory the entire session, but notching smaller declines than in overseas markets. The Dow shed 0.2 percent. "It is a market that is beginning to encounter some major threats and of course the threat is geopolitical," said Peter Cardillo, chief market economist at First

Standard Financial. Uncertainty over North Korea also reverberated in the foreign exchange market, where safe-haven currencies such as the Japanese yen and Swiss franc rallied. "Sabre-rattling between two of the world's least predictable leaders caused a wave of risk aversion to wash over global markets, fueling demand for traditional safe harbors," said Joe Manimbo, senior market analyst at Western Union Business Solutions. Among other markets, oil prices advanced after a US Department of Energy report showed lower oil inventories.

Dow member Disney dropped 3.9 percent as it reported flat third-quarter revenues due in part to weakness in its cable subscription business. Disney also announced it will launch two new streaming television services including one for its ESPN-branded sports channel, while ending its deal with Netflix as it shifts towards direct content distribution. Netflix lost 1.5 percent. Charter Communications rose 2.9 percent on news Altice is exploring a bid for the cable giant. Altice USA, the subsidiary of the French company, added 0.1 percent. —AFP

LEGO APPOINTS NEW CEO

STOCKHOLM: Danish toy maker Lego, known for its iconic colored plastic bricks, said yesterday it had appointed a new chief executive, replacing Briton Bali Padda who held the job for just eight months. Niels Christiansen, 51, most recently the head of industrial technology company Danfoss, will take over the position on October 1. Padda, 61, a Lego executive for 14 years, was appointed in December and was always intended to be a temporary boss pending a longer-term replacement, Lego said.

"The search for a long-term CEO began as soon as Bali was appointed CEO ... The perfect candidate appeared sooner than expected by the board, and that is the reason for the transition now," Lego spokesman Roar Rude Trangbaek said. Padda—who was the first non-Dane to head Lego—will stay on in the Lego Brand Group in a special advisory role. Christiansen's "experience in digitalization and globalization, implementing a transformative strategy, and creating an agile, high performing, international team will benefit the Lego Group," Lego Brand Group chairman Jorgen Vig Knudstorp said in a statement.

Lego posted record revenues in 2016, jumping by six percent from 2015 to 37.9 billion kroner (5 billion euros, \$5.2 billion), for a net profit up two percent to 9.4 billion. Lego's colorful toy blocks have proved resilient to the rise of digital devices which is battering the traditional toy industry, but the company has also been adept at using different channels to engage with children. The group has allowed partners to develop branded video games, a Hollywood blockbuster, television shows and theme parks. The company has grown over the years, but has always remained owned by the family of creator Ole Kirk Kristiansen since its founding in 1932.—AFP

TATA MOTORS PROFIT UP 42%

MUMBAI: Indian carmaker Tata Motors yesterday reported a 42 percent rise in quarterly profits, buoyed by a one-time gain from changes it made to pension plans at British unit Jaguar Land Rover. Consolidated net profit for the three months through June rose to 31.82 billion rupees (\$498.73 million) compared with 22.36 billion rupees a year earlier, the Mumbai-based company said in a statement. The auto major beat earnings forecasts. A Bloomberg survey had pegged net profit to come in at 14.80 billion rupees for the quarter. Tata Motors said it benefited from changes it made to Jaguar Land Rover's pension plans which gave it a one-time gain of 36.09 billion rupees.

Revenue fell about 10 percent to 599.72 billion rupees. Jaguar Land Rover, one of Tata Motors' key units, saw a 14 percent drop in sales in its UK home market but witnessed 30 percent growth in China. "While the first-quarter results have not met our expectations, we are working with renewed focus and energy to improve performance of our Commercial and Passenger Vehicle businesses," Tata Motors chief Guenter Butschek said in a statement.

JLR retail sales were up 3.5 percent, with 137,463 units sold for the quarter ending June, the company said. Sales of commercial and passenger vehicles were down nearly 12 percent from a year earlier. Tata Motors has been hit by a weak pound following Britain's vote to leave the European union. Since the "Brexit" referendum sterling has fallen sharply against the Indian currency, down from over 100 rupees to 82.94 on Wednesday. Shares in Tata Motors, part of the sprawling tea-to-steel conglomerate, fell by 3.17 percent on the Bombay Stock Exchange.—AFP



TOKYO: Photo shows the Toshiba Corporation logo at the company's headquarters in Tokyo. Toshiba yesterday met a deadline to report its long-delayed financial results, saying it lost around \$8.8 billion in the last fiscal year over its hard-hit US nuclear unit Westinghouse Electric.—AFP

TOSHIBA REPORTS LONG-DELAYED EARNINGS, RECORDS \$8.8BN LOSS

MASSIVE LOSSES RAISE DOUBTS ABOUT THE FUTURE

TOKYO: Toshiba dodged a delisting from Japan's premier stock exchange as it posted long-delayed financial results yesterday, but it lost some \$8.8 billion in its last fiscal year over a sea of red ink at its US nuclear unit Westinghouse Electric. The troubled conglomerate still faces a court battle to sell off its prized memory chip business for around \$18 billion with the sale seen as crucial to helping the firm get back on its feet.

There had been growing worries that cash-strapped Toshiba may not make the deadline to supply financial statements for the fiscal year ended in March, as it was at odds with its auditor over multi-billion dollar losses at Westinghouse. Toshiba had repeatedly delayed the release of its financial statements, saying it needed more time to gauge the impact to its balance sheet.

The massive losses at the division—largely owing to delays and cost overruns—have raised doubts about the future of Toshiba, which is still recovering from a 2015 accounting scandal. The firm is also probing whistleblower claims of financial misconduct by senior managers at Westinghouse. However, auditor PricewaterhouseCoopers Aarata issued a qualified opinion on Toshiba's statements Thursday, saying they were "mostly appropriate", although the two sides disagreed over when some of the losses should be booked.

Toshiba said it had a net loss of 965.7 billion yen (\$8.8 billion) for the fiscal year ended March 31 but added that it would swing back to profitability in the current fiscal year, largely owing to a strong performance in the chip division. "With this, we believe our company's earnings reporting has been normalised," Toshiba CEO Satoshi Tsunakawa told a press briefing yesterday. The firm's shares have already been demoted from the prestigious first section of the Tokyo Stock Exchange over inadequate internal controls. They closed at 292 yen Thursday in Tokyo, up 0.68 percent.

'Just the beginning'

Toshiba still needs to get itself out of negative net worth—its liabilities exceed its assets—by March 2018 to avoid being delisted from the Tokyo Stock Exchange. "Toshiba has made one positive step forward to avoid the imminent risk of being delisted," said Makoto Sengoku, a market analyst at Tokai Tokyo Research Center.

"But this is nothing more than the beginning" of its restructuring. In June, Toshiba said it was talks over the chip unit sale with public-private Innovation Network Corp of Japan, state-backed Development Bank of Japan and US private equity fund Bain Capital, with South Korean chipmaker SK Hynix acting as a lender. Taiwan's Hon Hai, better known as Foxconn,

has also expressed its interest. But US-based Western Digital, which jointly operates a chip factory in Japan with Toshiba, launched a court bid to block the sale.

Toshiba is the world's number-two supplier of memory chips, behind South Korea's Samsung, and the profitable division has accounted for about one-quarter of the Japanese firm's total annual revenue. The sale involving state-backed buyers would mean the Japanese government would effectively own the chip division. Japan had concerns about losing a sensitive technology amid questions about security around systems already using Toshiba's memory chips, which are also widely used in data centers.

Even before the problems at Westinghouse, Toshiba's reputation was badly damaged over separate revelations that top company executives had pressured underlings to cover up weak results for years after the 2008 global financial meltdown. Toshiba—which has more than 180,000 employees globally—once touted its overseas nuclear business as a future growth driver, filling a hole left after the 2011 Fukushima crisis slammed the brakes on new atomic projects in Japan. But delays and cost overruns hit Westinghouse's finances hard as the global outlook for the nuclear business weakened.—AFP

CRICKETER MUKUND CALLS OUT HIS COUNTRYMEN FOR DISCRIMINATION

NEW DELHI: An international cricketer has slammed the obsession of some of his Indian countrymen with fair skin, saying he's long been targeted for abuse because of his complexion. In a series of Twitter posts, including one long statement, batsman Abhinav Mukund said people had been "posting abuses" and "saying absolutely derogatory things about the tone of my skin."

The Times of India newspaper quickly posted a story on its website under the headline "Hurt by online abuse, Abhinav Mukund slams racism in tweet."

The 27-year-old Mukund clarified later

yesterday that his social media remarks had nothing to do with his Indian teammates, tweeting: "Guys please don't turn this into something else. It has absolutely no connection to anyone in the team."

Mukund is with India's national cricket team in Sri Lanka for a series involving test matches and limited-overs internationals. Cricket was introduced to the subcontinent during the British colonial rule, and a deep fascination with the game spread across the diverse region and helped India emerge as the global super power of the sport.

Discrimination is widespread in India,

where fair skin is often considered more beautiful and superior, while many who belong to the traditional lower castes in India's ancient system of social hierarchy have darker skin and are seen as inferior.

"This mindset is a colonial hangover that Indians fancy for white skin," Indian sociologist Ranjana Kumari said. "This kind of mindset is perpetuated by films and by products marketed for making skin white. We have allowed all this in our country. This is a big mistake. This is totally unacceptable and deplorable."

Mukund, an ethnic Tamil from the south-

ern city of Chennai, said he plays and practices outdoors under the sun and "not once have I regretted the fact that I have tanned or lost a couple of shades."

Mukund said he posted his statement on social media because he wanted to raise the issue now in the hope "this can result in a change in our mindsets!" "Obviously with the rise of social media it has gone to a magnitude that I see people hurling abuses left, right and center at something I have absolutely no control over," he said. "Fair isn't the only lovely or handsome guys!" —AP



DUBLIN: France's hooker and captain Ga'ille Mignot (3L) reacts as France's flanker Romane Menager (C) scores the opening try during the Women's Rugby World Cup 2017 pool C rugby match between France and Japan at Billings Park UCD ground in Dublin on Wednesday. — AFP

RUGBY

ROBshaw SIGNS NEW HARLEQUINS CONTRACT

LONDON: Former England captain Chris Robshaw has agreed a new long-term contract with Harlequins, the English Premiership club announced yesterday.

The 31-year-old flanker has spent his entire senior career with the London side and this latest deal will keep him at the Twickenham Stoop until 2020.

"I am extremely proud to have re-signed with the club that gave me my first chance as a player and I've cheered for since I was a child," said Robshaw, who made his Quins debut 12 years ago and has since won 56 England caps, including captaining his country during their ill-

fated 2015 World Cup campaign on home soil.

"I thank Harlequins and the supporters for the incredible continued support that's been shown to me," added Robshaw, twice a former Premiership player of the year, who has captained Quins to a league title and European Challenge Cup success, in a club statement.

"John Kingston and the coaching team have recruited well, and we have our sights firmly set on getting silverware this year."

Robshaw, 31, remains a key member of Six Nations champions England's side under Eddie Jones and Harlequins director of rugby Kingston was delighted to see him stay at the

Stoop, saying: "I am absolutely delighted that we have agreed a further contract extension with Chris. "He continues to be a fantastic advert for Harlequins in the way he conducts himself both on and off the pitch."

Kingston added: "His influence within the group is immense, and I know, in talking at length with him, he has an incredible appetite to win further major domestic and European honours with the only club he has represented.

"This is brilliant news for Harlequins at a time when we are preparing for what will be an incredibly exciting season, back in the (European) Champions Cup." —AFP

ENGLAND TO GO NATIVE AT JAPAN WORLD CUP

LONDON: England coach Eddie Jones said yesterday he wanted his players "close to normal life" during the 2019 World Cup in Japan after taking his backroom staff on a reconnaissance mission to the country.

The back-to-back Six Nations championships will likely be one of the favourites as they go in search of a second World Cup title to follow their 2003 triumph-when Clive Woodward's side beat an Australia team coached by Jones in the final in Sydney.

Now Jones, also a former Japan coach, plans to take members of his England staff to Tokyo, Yokohama, Miyazaki and Kobe while looking at venues such as potential training bases and hotels.

"There are two years to go so we are getting to the very serious part of the build up to the Rugby World Cup," said Jones in a Rugby Football Union statement. "I wanted to bring some of my staff over here from each department to start to familiarise themselves with Japan and understand the possible climatic conditions as well as get a feel of what it is going to be like to play in the World Cup here," added the Australian, whose mother and wife are both Japanese.

England will face Argentina, having won a Test series 2-0 away to the South Americans in June, France, the United States and Tonga in the pool phase. But Jones said success in Japan would also depend on adjusting to the local climate and culture. "People don't have the impression of Japan being a hot country," Jones said. "It's not seen as a hot and humid country for foreigners. "The English in particular describe Japan as the 'Far East' which is a lovely quaint old term.

"In Japan it's important to establish relationships in person," the 57-year-old explained. "Everything needs to be done face to face so it's an opportunity for our staff to build key relationships with Japanese rugby."

England plan to arrive in Japan ahead of the World Cup in early September 2019 and Jones was adamant he did not want his squad to be based in isolated venues. "We want to be in locations that are close to normal life, so we want our players to train hard and walk on the street and go for a coffee," he said.

"We've got a pretty good idea of when we'll arrive and we're just finalising our pre-World Cup camps and where they will be. We'll look to come here around September 3-6 and there is a possibility of playing a warm-up game shortly after that. We are looking to play similar teams to the ones we face in the pool stages." — AFP

BOSTON CELTICS TO PLAY 76ERS IN LONDON

NEW YORK: The Boston Celtics will meet the Philadelphia 76ers at the O2 Arena in London in January for a regular NBA game, league officials announced yesterday.

The game, to be played January 11, will be the Celtics' second trip to London, having played Minnesota there in a 2007 pre-season contest, and the first for the 76ers, whose prior British experience was a 2013 pre-season game at Manchester against Oklahoma City.

The 76ers boast some of the NBA's top young talent, including 2016 NBA Draft top pick Ben Simmons of Australia, who missed all of last season with a foot injury, and 2017 top draft selection Markelle Fultz as well as 2016-17 campaign All-Rookie selections Joel Embiid of Cameroon and Dario Saric of Croatia.

"I look forward to coming back to London with the Sixers after visiting for the first time this summer," Embiid said. "We are a young,

hungry team and will be sure to give the fans an exciting game against Boston in January."

The Celtics feature two-time NBA All-Star point guard Isaiah Thomas, who led Boston with a career-high 28.9 points a game last season, plus newly acquired All-Star Gordon Hayward from Utah and four-time NBA All-Star Al Horford, the team's top rebounder, from the Dominican Republic.

"It's very exciting for our team and the

whole Celtics organization to compete in front of our loyal fans in London," Thomas said. "I can't wait to connect with them at the NBA London Game 2018 and hopefully make new fans in the process."

Counting pre-season contests, it will be the NBA's 16th game in London. "Our events have become an annual opportunity for basketball fans across Europe to come together and share their passion for the NBA," league commissioner Adam Silver said. — AFP

MATSUYAMA GRABS SHARE OF LEAD AT PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

CHARLOTTE: Japan's Hideki Matsuyama birdied the par-5 15th hole to grab a share of the lead early in yesterday's opening round of the 99th PGA Championship at Quail Hollow.

World number three Matsuyama, coming off a World Golf Championships victory Sunday at Akron that included a final-round 61, was on two-under par alongside England's Paul Casey and Chris Wood and American Jim Herman.

Matsuyama opened on the back nine and struck quickly, sinking a 53-foot birdie putt on the par-5 10th and making a 12-footer for birdie at the par-4 11th.

He stumbled with a bogey at 12, finding the right rough with his first two shots, but bounced back at 15 despite missing a five-foot eagle putt.

Casey birdied the par-4 11th and 12th while Wood opened birdie-birdie then took bogey at the par-3 13th before responding with a birdie at 14.

Herman opened with a birdie at the first and added another at the fifth hole. — AFP



CHARLOTTE: Hideki Matsuyama of Japan plays his shot from the 18th tee during the first round of the 2017 PGA Championship at Quail Hollow Club yesterday in Charlotte, North Carolina. — AFP



CHARLOTTE: Jordan Spieth of the United States putts on the 13th green during the first round of the 2017 PGA Championship at Quail Hollow Club yesterday in Charlotte, North Carolina. — AFP

GOLF

SPIETH LAUNCHES HIS CAREER GRAND SLAM BID AS PGA OPENS

CHARLOTTE: Jordan Spieth began his charge at golf history with a par yesterday morning at the PGA Championship, launching his bid to become the youngest player to complete a career Grand Slam. With a victory, Spieth would become only the sixth man to sweep the four current major titles in a career after Jack Nicklaus, Tiger Woods, Ben Hogan, Gary Player and Gene Sarazen.

World number two Spieth, who won last month's British Open for his third major title, opened on the longest hole of par-71 Quail Hollow's 7,600-yard layout, the 592-yard par-5 10th, by finding the fairway with a 290-yard tee shot.

The 24-year-old American left his second shot in the heart of the fairway, then dropped his approach 23 feet beyond the hole and two-putted for par.

Scotland's Russell Knox and England's Chris Wood opened birdie-birdie on the back nine to seize the early lead in the first round of the year's last major tournament. Japan's Hideki Matsuyama, coming off a victory last

week at Akron after a final-round 61, also went birdie-birdie at 10 and 11 but stumbled back with a bogey at the par-4 12th hole. Alongside Spieth in the feature group were the year's two other major winners, Spain's Sergio Garcia from the Masters, who made a 10-foot birdie putt at the 10th, and American Brooks Koepka from the US Open, who lipped out from five feet for birdie and settled for par.

Spieth, who also won the 2015 Masters and US Open, would become the youngest golfer to complete a career Grand Slam by winning the Wanamaker Trophy here, being 190 days younger than Woods was when he won the 2000 British Open. "He has that intangible of when he doesn't have his best stuff... to still find a way to win," said five-time major champion Phil Mickelson. "It's just that indescribable trait that he has to find a way to get it done, find the will to win. He's extremely tough to beat because he just finds a way to gut it out."

Spieth dismisses the idea of extra

pressure trying to break the age mark, saying he has many years to try and complete the career Slam, his larger priority. "There won't be added expectations or pressure," Spieth said. "It's not a burning desire to have to be the youngest to do something, and that would be the only reason there would be added expectations."

Spieth also could become the first to finish the career Slam with a victory at the PGA. "He's a special guy," four-time major winner Ernie Els said. "He has won some events really showing some grit. You can't really describe it, but it's there. The guy finds a way of getting it done. He's really playing his game and grinding it out. That's a great way to win golf tournaments."

Spieth is ready for the challenge of a course that has absorbed an inch of rain this week, giving long hitters an extra edge with balls plopping into fairways and holding on greens that might otherwise be lightning-fast. "This is going to be one of the most challenging tracts I think we've played," Spieth said. — AFP

MOTHER OF ALL COMEBACKS NOT EASY FOR SERENA: CLIJSTERS

SINGAPORE: Serena Williams will face a difficult path ahead if she attempts to return to tennis after having a baby, Kim Clijsters has warned.

Clijsters completed the 'Mother of all Comebacks' when she won the US Open in 2009, just 18 months after giving birth to her first child.

The Belgian enjoyed her best days in tennis after becoming a mother, as she won three of her four Grand Slam titles before retiring at 29.

But Williams' situation is unique, and the 23-time Grand Slam winner will have to pick her way through some tough challenges if she comes back to the tour, Clijsters told AFP.

"Every player is different, every pregnancy is different, every delivery is different so it's really hard to comment on how quickly she'll be able to bounce back," she said in a phone

interview in her role as ambassador for the WTA Finals, which take place in Singapore in October.

"Tennis-wise, she won 23 Grand Slams before she went to have her baby. I (had) won one, so I think she has that part completely covered, no problem with the Grand Slams.

"But you have to find your way, especially as a first-time mother. I had a little bit of help too, my husband was able to travel with me. I wouldn't be able to do it if my family wasn't there. "So it also depends on the situation and on how they see themselves as a mother and athlete. And I'm sure there'll be challenges ahead."

SHARAPOVA STRUGGLES

Williams, who was pregnant when she won the Australian Open in January — without dropping a set — has strongly hinted that

she intends to return to tennis next year.

She could give birth during the US Open, which starts on August 28, after revealing her pregnancy in April when she accidentally posted a picture captioned "20 weeks" on Snapchat.

Victoria Azarenka, the two-time Australian Open champion and former world number one, returned in June after having a baby late last year, and reached the last 16 at Wimbledon in July.

While Azarenka is 28, and Clijsters was just 26 when she ended her two-year career break, Williams will turn 36 next month.

But the American has made a habit of pushing the sport's boundaries and she is likely to be motivated by the goal of surpassing Margaret Court's all-time record of 24 major victories.

Clijsters said Maria Sharapova, the five-

time Grand Slam winner, also faced a difficult comeback — but for very different reasons.

Sharapova, 30, has suffered injuries since returning from a 15-month doping ban in April, and Clijsters said mental pressures were likely to be weighing heavily on the Russian.

"No matter how hard you train, when you come into a match, the level of intensity, the focus, the added pressure that's put on it, has an effect on your body as well," she said.

"It's normal. I've been in this situation too where I feel like I've trained very, very hard and practised a lot harder than any situation you would get to in a match, but then when you add the mental side of it all, then it becomes hard," added Clijsters.

"I'm sure she's had to deal with a lot of stuff mentally in the last year or so. And it'll all come back out on court, whether you like it or not." — AFP

FEDERER, NADAL STROLL IN MONTREAL OPENERS

MONTREAL: A rejuvenated Roger Federer believes he is still reaping the benefits of his extended break from tennis after a comfortable opening victory at the ATP Montreal Masters gave him his best start to a season since 2006.

The Swiss star, who celebrated his 36th birthday on Tuesday, swatted aside Canada's world number 116 Peter Polansky 6-2, 6-1 in just 53 minutes to book his place in the second round.

Federer was joined in the last 16 by top seed and old adversary Rafael Nadal, who made similar short work of his opening assignment.

Nadal, who will depose the absent Andy Murray as world number one if he reaches the semi-finals in Montreal this week, routed Croatian youngster Borna Coric 6-1, 6-2.

Federer is riding high after a spectacular year which has netted him both the Australian Open and Wimbledon crowns.

On Wednesday's evidence, few would bet against him adding the US Open to that haul after a masterful performance that left Polansky groping at shadows.

A one-sided win gave him a 32-2 start to the season, his best beginning to a campaign since 2006 when he began 38-2 and finished the year at world number one.

Federer attributed his renaissance to rediscovering full fitness after knee surgery in 2016 and taking a two-month break from the game earlier this year.

"I guess for me the key is that I'm actually healthy," Federer said. "I knew that when I was healthy, I was going to be able to have chances to win slams again, to play against the best, beat the best.

"That's also reasons why I'm still playing today. If I felt like I couldn't do all these things, it would not be enjoyable or I wouldn't be doing it any more.

"I think the belief was always there. The body always needed to be there, too. I think the break just rejuvenated me ... I came in refreshed. It was a different mindset." — AFP



MONTREAL: Rafael Nadal of Spain prepares to hit a return against Borna Coric of Croatia during day six of the Rogers Cup presented by National Bank at Uniprix Stadium on Wednesday in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. — AFP



TORONTO: Venus Williams of the United States serves against Katerina Siniakova of Czech Republic during Day 5 of the Rogers Cup at Aviva Centre on Wednesday in Toronto, Canada. — AFP

WILLIAMS BATTLES INTO TORONTO LAST 16, MUGURUZA THROUGH

TORONTO: Venus Williams was forced to draw on all of her vast experience before overcoming Czech youngster Katerina Siniakova to reach the last 16 of the WTA Toronto hardcourt tournament on Wednesday.

The 37-year-old American ninth seed, who began playing on the professional circuit before 21-year-old Siniakova was even born in 1996, eventually prevailed 7-5, 7-5 in 1hr 39min.

It was a satisfying win for Williams, who shrugged off the failure to convert a string of break points to raise her game when it mattered late in the second set.

Williams, who will be chasing her third US Open crown next month after reaching the Wimbledon and Australian Open finals this year, said she had remained calm against Siniakova even

when errors prevented her from taking control. At one stage Siniakova saved eight consecutive break points to ensure she always remained in touch. Williams eventually converted only four of 13 break points.

"She played so well, so competitive," Williams said afterwards. "I had a few errors but I think the key is to keep going for it and hopefully you'll get some in at some point.

"On those points she played some great tennis. And what can you do except go back and try again," Williams said of Siniakova's multiple break-point saves. Williams will now face Elina Svitolina in the next round.

Wimbledon champion Garbine Muguruza advanced with a 7-5, 6-2 win over Belgium's Kirsten Flipkens.

Top seed Karolína Pliskova of the

Czech Republic meanwhile eased past Russia's Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 6-3, 6-3. It was Pliskova's first match since she was installed as the current world number one and she confessed she had been nervous beforehand.

"I had a little bit of nerves before the match, but during the match I felt much better, especially at the end," Pliskova said. "I played doubles yesterday so the nerves went out a little bit yesterday, and I felt good today. I'm definitely happy that I'm through to the next round."

Two seeded Russian players were among those to make an early exit.

Svetlana Kuznetsova, seeded eight, was the highest-profile casualty, tumbling out to Catherine Bellis of the United States 6-4, 7-5. Elena Vesnina, the 16th seed, was sent packing by Australia's Ashleigh Barty. — AFP



ATLANTA: Philadelphia Phillies right fielder Nick Williams can't handle a line drive to center field by Atlanta Braves' Ozzie Albies during the seventh inning of a baseball game, Wednesday, in Atlanta. —AP

BASEBALL

BUMGARNER GETS 2ND WIN AS GIANTS TOP CUBS

SAN FRANCISCO: Madison Bumgarner allowed four hits over seven innings to win for the second time since returning from a dirt bike accident, helping the San Francisco Giants defeat the Chicago Cubs 3-1 Wednesday and complete a winning homestand for only the second time this season. Bumgarner (2-5) struck out seven, walked one and gave up five hits - including a third-inning home run by Albert Almora Jr. Hunter Strickland pitched a one-hit eighth and Sam Dyson completed the six-hitter with a perfect ninth for his eighth save. San Francisco won two of three against the NL Central-leading Cubs and has won consecutive home series for the first time since May. Joe Panik hit an RBI single in the second, Jarrett Parker had a tiebreaking single in the seventh against Brian Duensing (0-1) and Hunter Pence hit an opposite-field homer to right-center in the eighth against Pedro Strop.

PHILLIES 3, BRAVES 2

Odubel Herrera continued to feast on Atlanta pitching by driving in a run with two triples in the Phillies' 3-2 victory that completed their third series sweep of the Braves this season. Jerad Eickhoff (3-7) allowed two runs on nine hits in 6 2/3 innings. The Phillies (42-69) swept the two-game series to improve to 11-2 against the Braves this season. They swept a four-game series against Atlanta on July 28-31 and a three-game series on April 21-23 - each in Philadelphia. Herrera lined a triple to right field in the first inning off left-hander Sean Newcomb (1-7).

DODGERS 3, DIAMONDBACKS 2

Yasiel Puig's two-out single drove in the go-ahead run in the seventh inning and Los Angeles held on for a win over the Diamondbacks, making the Dodgers the sixth team since 1913 to reach 80 wins in their first 113 games. Puig's hit was the third off Diamondbacks ace Zack Greinke in the sev-

enth, after Greinke had allowed only one hit through six innings. Cody Bellinger homered, doubled and scored twice for the Dodgers. Greinke (13-5) lost for the first time in 13 starts at home this season. He is 10-1 at Chase Field. He allowed three runs on four hits in 6 2-3 innings, but lost the lead by surrendering two runs in the seventh on Bellinger's double, a two-out double for Joc Pederson and Puig's single. Greinke struck out eight and walked four. Dodgers starter Alex Wood pitched six innings for the win. Wood (14-1) allowed two runs on six hits with four strikeouts and a walk.

CARDINALS 8, ROYALS 5

Yadier Molina hit a grand slam one pitch after a cat ran onto the field in the sixth inning, helping the Cardinals rally to beat the Royals. The Cardinals loaded the bases off Royals relievers Brandon Maurer and Peter Moylan. Molina was at the plate, with two outs, when the cat came onto the field and ran toward the center field wall. On the next pitch, Molina drilled his 14th homer of the season into the left field seats for his fifth career slam. Melky Cabrera hit his 15th home run, a two-run shot, that had given the Royals a 5-4 lead in the fifth.

MARINERS 6, ATHLETICS 3

Nelson Cruz homered twice, Kyle Seager also went deep off Jharel Cotton (5-9) and Seattle completed a two-game sweep. Emilion Pagan (1-2) pitched one-hit ball over 2 2/3 innings for his first big league win, and Edwin Diaz retired three batters for his 25th save. Khris Davis hit his 31st home run and Matt Joyce also homered for the A's, one day after returning to the lineup following a two-game suspension for using an anti-gay slur.

ANGELS 5, ORIOLES 1

After 10 seasons in the minors and playing in his first major league game, Cesar Puella

singled in the go-ahead run and C.J. Cron added a two-run homer Troy Scribner (2-0), making his second big league start, allowed one run and two hits in five innings. Kevin Gausman (8-8) gave up four runs and eight hits in 5 1/3 innings.

RANGERS 5, METS 1

Martin Perez (6-10) allowed three hits over eight innings, Joey Gallo hit his 32nd home run and Texas gained a two-game split. Texas took a 3-0 lead in the first against Rafael Montero (1-8) when the pitcher balked with Shin-Soo Choo taking a sizable and distracting lead off of third, and Gallo hit a two-run drive into the upper deck in right, his 11th home run since the All-Star break.

ROCKIES 3, INDIANS 2

Charlie Blackmon homered against Zach McAllister (1-2) in the 12th inning, atoning for getting doubled up at first base on a foul ball in the eighth. Colorado tied the score in the ninth when Carlos Gonzalez singled with one out and came home on Jonathan Lucroy's double off Cody Allen, who blew a save for the third time in 22 chances. Carlos Estevez (5-0) pitched two hitless innings and Tyler Chatwood threw a perfect 12th for his second big league save.

NATIONALS 10, MARLINS 1

Ryan Zimmerman had four run-scoring hits, including two solo home runs, drove in five runs and became the franchise's all-time RBI leader as the Nationals defeated the Marlins. Gio Gonzalez (10-5) allowed one run over seven innings after nearly tossing a no-hitter against the Marlins in his previous start. In between, he missed a turn to be with his wife for the birth of their second child. Bryce Harper had two hits and two RBIs for Washington while Howie Kendrick added three hits, including two doubles, and drove in three runs. Major League home run leader

Giancarlo Stanton went hitless for Miami after homering twice this series.

REDS 8, PADRES 3

Joey Votto extended his longest hitting streak of the season to 14 games, Stuart Turner hit his first major league homer, and the Reds beat the Padres. Votto had a double and a single off left-hander Travis Wood (2-4), who made his third start since San Diego acquired him in a trade with Kansas City. Turner and Eugenio Suarez each had a two-run homer, and Jose Peraza singled with the bases loaded off Wood, who lasted five innings. Votto's career high is a 17-game hitting streak last season. He's batting .477 with four homers during the current one.

Asher Wojciechowski (3-1) won his second straight start despite allowing a solo homer by Manuel Margot and a two-run shot by Wil Myers. He gave up seven hits and struck out six in 5 2/3 innings.

TIGERS 10, PIRATES 0

Justin Verlander allowed one hit over eight innings and the Tigers beat the Pirates. Josh Bell ended Verlander's attempt at a third career no-hitter in the sixth inning with a grounder off the glove of a diving Nicholas Castellanos at third base. Ian Kinsler homered, scored four times and drove in four runs and Castellanos had five RBIs. The Tigers lost the first two games of the home-and-home series in Pittsburgh. The series concludes today afternoon. Verlander (8-7) won for the third straight start, allowing three walks while striking out six. He has allowed two runs in 21 innings in wins over the Astros, Orioles and Pirates. He received a standing ovation at the end of the sixth, and a longer one after retiring the side in the eighth. Still the subject of constant trade rumors, he tipped his cap to the fans after the eighth. Ivan Nova (10-9) allowed six runs, 10 hits and two walks in 6 1/3 innings. —AP

ARGENTINE FAMILY HOME AFTER SOCCER BOSS ENDS QATAR SAGA

BUENOS AIRES: An Argentine family landed home late Wednesday after the wealthy owner of French football club PSG paid for their flights following weeks stranded in Qatar, according to people involved.

Valeria Marsili, 42, and her three daughters had their flights canceled without reimbursement on June 5 after Qatar's neighbours imposed a blockade on the Gulf state.

They had been visiting Marsili's husband and father of the girls, Gabriel Agüero, 41, who works as a chef in Qatar. They could not afford the \$6,000 (5,100 euros) to buy new tickets.

After AFP reported their plight, the family received an offer of help from the son of Marcelo Simonian, a football agent representing Argentina and Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) star Javier Pastore.

The Simonians contacted the Qatari authorities and Nasser al-Khelaifi, chairman of Qatar Sports Investments, the group that owns PSG.

"My son told me what was going on, I told the story to Nasser," Marcelo Simonian told AFP by email.

"He automatically told me that he will take care of the problem and he will resolve it."

After Nasser's intervention the Qatari government "gave the new tickets for the family for free," Simonian added.

THRILLED TO BE BACK HOME

Marsili and the three girls landed back in Buenos Aires late Wednesday on a Qatar Airways flight from Doha via Sao Paulo. Agüero stayed on in the Qatari capital, where he works.

"We're tired but content," Marsili told AFP at the

Ezeiza International Airport after more than 20 hours of travel.

"Fortunately this has been resolved and we're back home again."

Marsili and her daughters Bernadita and Renata — 13 year-old twins — and eight-year-old Emilia were welcomed at the airport by friends and relatives.

Qatar has been working to improve its image in the media after neighboring countries two months ago cut diplomatic ties with it, accusing it of links to terrorism.

Last week Qatar Sports Investments paid the record sum of 222 million euros (\$260 million) to sign Brazilian striker Neymar to PSG from Barcelona.

Qatar is due to host the football World Cup in 2022 despite controversy over the selection process. —AFP



LONDON: (L-R) Qatar's Abderrahman Samba, Norway's Karsten Warholm and US athlete Kerron Clement compete in the final of the men's 400m hurdles athletics event at the 2017 IAAF World Championships at the London Stadium in London on Wednesday. —AFP

ATHLETICS

WARHOLM SCREAMS TO VICTORY ON NIGHT OF SHOCKS

LONDON: Norway's Karsten Warholm and Phyllis Francis produced sublime performances to stun the favourites and take gold at the athletics world championships on Wednesday.

Warholm, a baby-faced 21-year-old, led from start to finish to beat one of the all-time greats in the 400 metres hurdles Kerron Clement and give Norway their first gold in the event. Clement, bidding to become the first man to win the hurdles world title three times, had to settle for bronze. "I truly don't believe it," gasped Warholm, who put his fingers round his mouth after crossing the line, apeing the famous painting 'The Scream' by Norwegian artist Edvard Munch.

"I've worked so hard for this but I don't know what I have done. This is an amazing feeling. I'm world champion, that's crazy." Francis's victory was even more surprising as the American, fifth in the Olympics last year, looked set for a minor medal at best with Bahama's Shaunae Miller-Uibo set to add world gold to her Olympic crown.

However, the Bahamian tied up dreadfully in the final 20 metres and it was Francis who breasted the line in first with her legendary

compatriot Allyson Felix third.

"At the finish line I was surprised, I thought I was second or third, but then they told me 'you are first'. That is crazy," said 25-year-old Francis. Miller-Uibo stumbled over the line and then collapsed on the track with not only her dreams of 400m gold having been shattered but also of doing the 400m/200m double.

For two other athletes though the dream double remains on course with Britain's Mo Farah and South Africa's Wayde van Niekerk reaching the 5,000m and 200m finals respectively. However, they got to them in very different styles.

The 34-year-old Farah — who won the 10,000m last Friday — looked at ease in finishing second in his semi-final as he bids to bow out of championship track running with his fifth successive global title double.

'RUNNING WITH ANGER'

400m world champion Van Niekerk, though, struggled into the 200m final by virtue of being the second of the two fastest losers — just 200th of a second ahead of France's Christophe Lemaitre.

"I knew it would be a tough challenge," said

Van Niekerk, who is bidding to emulate the legendary Michael Johnson's 200m/400m double in the 1995 championships.

"To see my name in the final is a real pleasure. I've got time to recover now and give it my all in the final." Looking especially dangerous is Botswanan Isaac Makwala who but for being barred from the 400m final because he had been diagnosed with the highly-contagious norovirus could have been contemplating the double himself.

The 30-year-old, who has late in his career surged into global medal contention, came through two 200m on Wednesday — one a solo time-trial as he had been barred from the heats on Monday.

Makwala admitted to being heartbroken at missing out on the 400m adding: "I am running with anger".

China got their first gold of the championships as Gong Lijiao ended years of near-misses in finals to take the women's shot put in a competition that failed to catch fire although the torrential rain didn't help.

"It is 26 years since China won a shot put medal, so it's a very special moment for me," she said. —AFP

SOCCER

WENGER BRACED FOR KNIFE-EDGE SEASON

LONDON: Arsene Wenger brokered a fragile truce with Arsenal's dissenting fans by winning the FA Cup, but has little margin for error ahead of today's Premier League opener against Leicester City.

Last season was by far the most difficult of Wenger's 21-year tenure as manager, with Arsenal's on-pitch travails exposing him to furious protests from sections of the club's support.

Having ended months of speculation by signing a new two-year contract, he is looking forwards and says that if the team put on a united front, the fans will fall into line behind them.

"A lot (of the trouble) was created by my own situation. Maybe I made a mistake," Wenger said after Arsenal beat Chelsea on penalties in last weekend's Community Shield.

"Overall I believe that it's down to us. The trend has always to come from the team." Undermining Wenger's quest for harmony is the uncertainty surrounding several first-team players.

Alexis Sanchez, Mesut Ozil, Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain and Jack Wilshere are among the players whose contracts expire at the end of the season. Sanchez in particular has been the subject of intense speculation about his future amid reported interest from the big-spending duo of Manchester City and Paris Saint-Germain.

The Chile forward missed pre-season after being granted extra time off following the Confederations Cup and has been ruled out of Friday's game due to an abdominal strain.

That Wenger is not going into the new campaign with the fans still at his throat owes much to Arsenal's strong finish to last season. After Wenger belatedly adopted a 3-4-2-1 formation—a tactical trend sparked by champions Chelsea—Arsenal won seven of their last eight league games and stunned Chelsea 2-1 in the FA Cup final.

They defeated Chelsea again when the teams renewed acquaintances at Wembley in last Sunday's Community Shield, winning a penalty shootout 4-1 after a 1-1 draw.

IHEANACHO READY FOR ACTION

As well as the silverware, Arsenal's supporters have also had a major signing to celebrate after Wenger broke the club's transfer record to sign prolific French striker Alexandre Lacazette from Lyon.

The 26-year-old set Arsenal back an initial fee of £46.5 million (\$60.3 million, 51.5 million euros) and is expected to lead the line, flanked by Sanchez and Ozil. Ozil is a doubt against Leicester, however, along with Aaron Ramsey, Per Mertesacker and Shkodran Mustafi, while Laurent Koscielny is suspended. Gabriel and Santi Cazorla are definitely out.

For the first time since 1997, Arsenal are going into a season without Champions League football and Wenger has pledged to rest players in the Europa League.

He has said he intends "to focus completely on the Premier League", but if such an approach fails to yield a title challenge, he can expect the protests to ramp up quickly. —AFP

RUMMENIGGE TO STEP DOWN AS ECA CHIEF

GENEVA: Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, who has been chairman of the European Club Association since it was created nearly a decade ago, will not stand for reelection next month, the ECA said yesterday.

Rummenigge, who is also chairman of Bayern Munich, informed his colleagues on the ECA board of his decision to step down during a meeting in Madrid yesterday, the association said in a statement.

"Following intense, successful, and good years I believe the time has come to pass on the responsibility," Rummenigge said in the statement.

"I have always believed this office should only be held for a limited amount of time. My withdrawal from office expresses my sincerity concerning this issue."

Rummenigge was appointed the first chairman of the ECA when it was founded in January 2008.

The association initially counted 137 clubs as members — a number that has since swelled to 220.

Rummenigge's successor will be appointed at the next ECA board elections, which will take place on September 5 in Geneva, the organisation said. —AFP



Karl-Heinz Rummenigge

FORMIDABLE TASK FOR CHAN DEBUTANTS EGYPT

JOHANNESBURG: Egypt debut in the African Nations Championship (CHAN) this weekend at home to formidable Morocco, ending an unexplained nine-year absence from the competition.

Matches in the biennial competition carry full international status despite being restricted to footballers registered with clubs in their country of birth.

It was introduced by CAF in 2008 amid concerns that home-based stars were getting few national team opportunities with compatriots playing in Europe dominating squads. The Nations Championship has grown quickly in popularity and crowd appeal and 49 of 54 CAF members entered the 2018 tournament, with Kenya hosting the finals next January.

Egypt, Equatorial Guinea and Sao Tome e Principe make their first appearances this weekend, leaving Cape Verde as the only country never to have participated.

Ordinarily, Egypt would be among be expected to qualify for the 16-nation tournament and be among the favourites to go on and claim the \$1.25 million (1.05 million euros) first prize.

But Morocco present a tough challenge in a home-and-away final round qualifier to be played on successive weekends with Alexandria hosting the first leg and Rabat the return game. Egypt rely less on Europe-based stars than most African countries with 12 of the 23-man squad that finished 2017 Africa Cup of Nations runners-up playing at home.

However, two of them will not be eligible to play against Morocco having secured contracts abroad.

Goalkeeper Essam El Hadary, who turned 44 during the Cup of Nations in Gabon to become the oldest player in the history of the tournament, has moved to a Saudi Arabian club.

Ahmed Hegazy, a centre-back with a fondness for heading goals off set-pieces, has moved to English Premier League outfit West Bromwich Albion on loan from Al Ahly. While Egypt can call on a host of experienced international campaigners from Ahly and arch rivals Zamalek, the stars of Raja and Wydad Casablanca and FUS Rabat can boost Morocco.

Title-holders and twice champions the Democratic Republic of Congo travel across the Congo river to face Congo Brazzaville.

Survivors from the team that defeated Mali 3-0 in a 2016 final fought in a Kigali downpour include TP Mazembe striker Meschak Elia.

In a memorable Nations Championship, Elia netted twice in the final to finish leading overall scorer and was voted the best player of the tournament.

Stars from the leading DR Congo clubs dominate the squad with Mazembe supplying eight players, Daring Club Motema Pembe six and V Club four.

The draw kept west African giants Ghana, the Ivory Coast and Nigeria apart and all start with away fixtures.

Ghana have probably the trickiest assignment, against Burkina Faso in Ouagadougou, the Nigerians tackle Benin in Cotonou and the Ivorians face Niger in Niamey.

Uganda, who named local coaches Moses Basena and Fred Kajoba as successors to Serb Milutin Sredojevic, host Rwanda as they seek a fourth consecutive finals appearance. —AFP

RONALDO RESTED, READY FOR SPANISH SUPER CUP

BARCELONA: Cristiano Ronaldo is rested and ready to take on Barcelona in the Spanish Super Cup. Ronaldo enjoyed a longer vacation than his Real Madrid teammates to fully recover from Portugal's participation in the Confederations Cup in June. He missed his club's preseason tour, including a friendly against Barcelona in Miami that the Catalan club won 3-2.

Ronaldo returned to training at the start of August, but he only played the final 10 minutes of Madrid's 2-1 win over former club Manchester United in the European Super Cup on Tuesday. That means Ronaldo should be back in Madrid's starting lineup on Sunday, when it visits Barcelona's Camp Nou in the opening leg of the Spanish Super Cup. The second leg will be at the Santiago Bernabeu on Aug. 16.

One of the keys to Madrid's Champions League and Spanish league titles last season was the decision by coach Zinedine Zidane to limit Ronaldo's minutes during the long campaign.

By giving him some games off, the 32-year-old Ronaldo arrived in peak form to the final stretch and led Madrid to the double. Ronaldo scored twice in the 4-1 win over Juventus in the European Cup final and netted in the final round of the Spanish league to secure the title by beating Malaga 2-0.

Madrid now takes aim at a second trophy to kick off the new campaign before starting its defense of the Spanish league crown the following weekend. "What we want to do is to keep this winning streak alive," Zidane said after Madrid beat United. "This is going to be a difficult year because already on Sunday we have a complicated match."

Madrid will be without midfielder Luka Modric, who will serve a one-game suspension dating back to the 2014 Spanish Super Cup. Barcelona, which is in the Super Cup as the reigning Copa del Rey winner, will play its second match since the stunning



ST PETERSBURG: In this Friday, June 23, 2017 file photo, Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo controls the ball during a training session in St. Petersburg, Russia. Cristiano Ronaldo is rested and ready to take on Barcelona in the Spanish Super Cup. Ronaldo enjoyed a longer vacation than his Real Madrid teammates to recover fully from Portugal's participation in the Confederations Cup in June. —AP

departure of Neymar after Paris Saint-Germain paid a record 222 million euros (\$262 million) to trigger the release clause in his contract.

Barcelona played its first match without Neymar on Monday in a friendly against Brazilian side Chapecoense. That match, however, was more about paying homage to the victims of the plane crash that decimated Chapecoense last year than warming up for Madrid.

The only relevance that Barcelona's easy 5-0 win over Chapecoense could have was the good performance by Gerard Deulofeu, who filled in for Neymar. Deulofeu now has a chance to earn his place in Barcelona's starting 11 under new coach Ernesto Valverde.

With Neymar gone, Barcelona will look to Lionel Messi to repeat his outstanding performance from the last competitive "clasico" played against Madrid in April. Barcelona couldn't count on a suspended Neymar for that match, but Messi scored twice, including a dramatic last-gasp goal, to seal a memorable 3-2 win.

Valverde replaced manager Luis Enrique this summer after four noteworthy seasons in charge of Athletic Bilbao. The former Barcelona player will now coach his first competitive match for the club against its fiercest rival. "I think we have had a good pre-season, but the real thing begins Sunday," Valverde said this week. "It's an important title and I think that we are prepared." —AP

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Warholm screams to victory on night of shocks **46**

CONFUSION REIGNS OVER NEYMAR PSG DEBUT

PARIS: It's been nearly a week since Neymar landed in Paris, and the world's most expensive player still can't play for his new club in the French league. Neymar's world-record 222 million euros (\$262 million) transfer from Barcelona to Paris Saint Germain was completed last week, but the Brazil international has yet to be granted permission to play.

PSG wanted Neymar to start the season at the Parc des Princes last week against Amiens but his debut was delayed because his international transfer certificate (ITC) had not been received by the French league on time.

Neymar was unveiled to the PSG fans on Saturday, but watched from the stands as his new team started its league campaign with a 2-0 win. The former Santos forward was then expected to play on Sunday night at Guingamp at the 18,000-capacity Stade du

Roudourou, but PSG fans might have to wait a bit longer to see the star in action.

The French league said in an email to The Associated Press yesterday that it had not received the document needed from the Spanish federation. It added the deadline for receiving the document was midnight local time. The league however said Neymar could still be qualified for Sunday's game if PSG and the French federation decide against referring the issue to FIFA after the deadline expires.

"If the French federation does not start proceedings with FIFA, we could still receive the ICT up until Saturday night," the league said. According to French newspaper L'Equipe, PSG is unlikely to ask FIFA to rule on the issue because it could slow down proceedings further. The club did not immediately answer a message from The Associated

Press seeking comments. FIFA told the AP that it "has not been contacted by the FFF (French football federation) in connection with the player Neymar and the ITC procedure." The French league added that it "does not understand" why its Spanish counterpart "refuses to accept the payment for the buyout clause for Neymar."

Barcelona said there is nothing strange about the situation and that the wait is due to the banks, which have to make the 222 million euros available in the club's account before the transfer is authorized.

There has been speculation in France that Barcelona slowed down the whole process as a retaliation measure against PSG after the French league club lured one of its three biggest stars out of the Camp Nou.

Asked about his views on the issue after

the Amiens game, PSG coach Unai Emery said last week he was not sure "Spain did everything" to ensure Neymar would be cleared to play for PSG without delay. FFF president Noel Le Graet said another reason for the delay could be the current turmoil within the Spanish federation. Angel Maria Villar, who ran the Spanish soccer federation since 1988, was suspended from the presidency for one year in July by Spain's top sports authority for his suspected involvement in a case of misappropriation of private and public funds received by the federation since 2009.

"I don't need to tell you that the Spanish federation is having some problems at the moment," Le Graet told L'Equipe. "The transfer is complete, so this should not last." In any case, the paperwork issues have left Neymar unfazed. — AP

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