



Group estimates
34,000 gallons
of oil spilled
off Kuwait



Defiant Trump
again blames
'both sides' for
Virginia violence



Bruised but
coping, Qatar's
economy remains
strong: Experts



'Aunt' Venus
preparing for
Serena's baby
and US Open



150 FILS
NO: 17308
32 PAGES

WAVES OF MOURNERS GATHER AT ABDULREDHA'S FUNERAL

AMIR ORDERS NAMING MOSQUES AFTER KUWAITIS MARTYRED IN BURKINA



Min 33°
Max 47°
High Tide
06:01 & 20:50
Low Tide
00:18 & 13:50

AMIR RECEIVES LETTER FROM QATARI LEADER



KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives Qatari Foreign Minister Abdulrahman Al-Thani at Bayan Palace yesterday. During the reception, the Qatari Foreign Minister handed the Amir a letter from Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani concerning bilateral ties and the latest international and regional developments. — KUNA

KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzuq Ali Al-Ghanem yesterday led a wave of grief-stricken citizens and expatriates to pay their final respects to the deceased renowned actor Abdulhussein Abdulredha, whose remains were flown to the country earlier yesterday. Scores of nationals and residents showed up at the cemetery from all corners of the country, joined by deep feelings for the deceased.

HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah had ordered Abdulredha's remains be brought back home aboard an Amiri aircraft from London, where he passed away aged 78 last Friday. The funeral drew a large crowd of people due to the popularity of the actor, who had a prolific career spanning decades.

Speaking to reporters at the funeral, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Acting Minister of State for Youth Affairs Khaled Al-Roudhan said Abdulredha was an example to follow with respect to devotion to work and national unity. He represented all segments of the Kuwaiti society, indicating that many Kuwaiti actors followed in his steps. The presence of the large crowd of mourners reflects people's affection towards him, the minister added, alluding to the thousands of people who gathered at the cemetery to bid Abdulredha good-bye.

Separately, HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah issued orders to name



KUWAIT: Mourners carry the coffin of Kuwaiti actor, playwright and comedian Abdulhussein Abdulredha during his funeral at the Jaafari cemetery yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

two new mosques in Kuwait after prominent martyrs Sheikh Fahad Al-Husseini and Grand Mosque Imam Sheikh Dr Walid Al-Ali, said Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri yesterday.

The Amir's order was intended to honor the

Kuwaiti martyrs, who were killed in a terrorist attack on a restaurant in Burkina Faso on Monday, Jabri added in press statement, lauding the two scholars for playing a prominent role during their life in daawa (preaching) of Islam and promoting tolerance of the heavenly religion. — KUNA

(See Page 4)

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His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanim. —KUNA photos



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

CROWN PRINCE RECEIVES TOP OFFICIALS

KUWAIT: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday received the Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanim and His Highness the

Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace. His Highness Sheikh Nawaf also received First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh

Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior

Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, Chairman of Kuwait Directorate General for Civil Aviation (DGCA) Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, Minister of State for Housing

Affairs and Minister of State for Services Affairs Yasser Abul, as well as Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri. —KUNA



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Chairman of Kuwait Directorate General for Civil Aviation (DGCA) Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Minister of State for Housing Affairs and Minister of State for Services Affairs Yasser Abul.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday received a number of top officials at Kuwait National Guard (KNG) at Bayan Palace.

— A-Z OF —

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OVER 34,000 GALLONS OF OIL SPILL OFF KUWAIT

IRAN CONFIRMS NO LEAKAGE FROM ITS OIL TANKERS

KUWAIT: An analysis of satellite imagery by a US-based nonprofit organization suggests at least 34,000 gallons of oil have leaked out during a spill off the coast of Kuwait. West Virginia-based SkyTruth says satellite photos from the day of the spill off southern Kuwait show it spread over a distance covering 131 square kilometers (50.5 square miles). In a blog post early yesterday, SkyTruth also noted a pipe-laying ship was transiting through the area at the time of the spill. Authorities have yet to definitively identify the source of the leak, though they initially suspected it came from a tanker. The leak was discovered on Friday. Authorities in tiny Kuwait, an OPEC member home to the world's sixth-largest estimated oil reserves, said they discovered another leak on Tuesday. This story has been corrected to show SkyTruth believes at least 34,000 gallons have spilled in the leak, not barrels.

In another development, Tehran has confirmed that there was no oil leakage from the pipelines or oil tankers in Iran, Kuwaiti Minister of Oil and Minister of Electricity and Water Essam Al-Marzouq said yesterday. Last Tuesday Al-Marzouq said that contacts were made with neighboring countries to inquire about any oil leakage that could be related to an oil spill discovered near Messilah coast.

Meanwhile, Minister of Oil Essam Al-Marzouq said that the Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) has moved a number of its vessels to the Messilah coast, south of the capital, to control a newly-discovered oil spill. The revelation was made after authorities recently scrambled to deal with an oil slick that floated off the coast of Al-Zour, south of the country.

KOC vessels and the Kuwait Fire Service frigates will survey the surrounding areas for other oil spills, Al-Marzouq, also minister of electricity and water said.

He added that contacts are made with neighboring countries to inquire about any oil leakage or any information that could be related to the new oil spill. He pointed out that these moves were taken after receiving a report today afternoon about the detection of a new oil spill near the

Officers Club off Messilah coast. Al-Marzouq noted that Kuwait is carrying out aerial and sea surveys of the territorial waters as well as contacting international environmental organizations to get satellite images of the area over the past few days in order to collect information that could lead to identifying the source of this spill. He admitted that the ministry does not currently possess any information regarding the source of the oil spill. — Agencies

MINISTRIES' INCOME HITS KD 13.9 BILLION

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The government sent 35 proposed laws with regards to approving the final accounts of ministries and government departments for the year 2016/2017. The report said ministries' income reached KD 13.9 billion, while expenses were KD 17.7 billion. The report indicated that the actual budget deficit reached KD 5.9 billion.

Dentists scholarships

A Health Ministry report said 450 dentists joined scholarships - 40 percent of the total number of Kuwaiti dentists - during the period from 2000 until 2016, while 270 scholarship dentists joined work at specialized centers after receiving their post-graduation certificates. The report said MoH expanded its scholarship program by considering

new international universities in Sweden, Hong Kong, Saudi Arabia, Singapore and South Africa.

Pilgrimage Mission

Head of Kuwait Pilgrimage Mission and Assistant Undersecretary for Technical Coordination, Foreign Relations and Hajj at Awqaf Ministry Khalaf Al-Athaineh said hajj permissions for Kuwait pilgrims are being issued so they can go to Saudi Arabia. He said the permissions will be on special papers that cannot be forged.

Eight new reservoirs

"Your Oil and Gas News" site said Australia's SRG has won a contract with Hyundai Engineering and Construction Company to present specialized construction services related to building eight new reservoirs for liquefied natural gas in Kuwait.

AMIR MEETS OFFICIALS, SUDANESE DELEGATION

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday received the National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem and Speaker of the Sudanese National Congress Ibrahim Omer and his accompanying delegation at Bayan Palace. The meeting was attended by Amiri Diwan Adviser Mohammad Dhaifallah Sharar and head of the honorary delegation MP Shuaib Al-Mowaziri. —KUNA



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday received National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem and Speaker of the Sudanese National Congress Ibrahim Omer. —KUNA photos



The Kuwait News Agency's Deputy Director General of the editorial department and Editor-in-chief Saad Al-Ali holds talks with the Jordanian military officials. —KUNA photos



JORDANIAN ARMY OFFICIAL APPLAUDS METICULOUSNESS OF KUWAITI MEDIA

KUWAIT: A Jordanian military official said yesterday that Kuwait's state-run news agency KUNA is a highly adept and reputable media outlet. Speaking to KUNA as he met with the news agency's deputy director general of the

editorial department and Editor-in-chief Saad Al-Ali, director of the Jordanian army's moral guidance department Awda Al-Shadayfat said ties between the military and the media are pivotal. Meanwhile, Al-Shadayfat's counterpart

in the Kuwaiti army lieutenant colonel Abdulaziz Al-Refai said that the Kuwaiti army makes it a point to interact with the media, given the growing significance of that sector. He added that KUNA's services are very

informative and comprehensive, saying that the meeting tackled strategies for a closer rapport between KUNA and the army's moral guidance department. KUNA's Chief Editor Al-Ali spoke of how instrumental the media is in educating the

masses and KUNA's solid ties with the Ministry of Defense. He pointed out that the rise of social media represented a challenge for media institutions, as the information shared on these websites is usually fallible. —KUNA

News

in brief



KUWAIT: The Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) distribute coupons to limited income families in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh district. —KUNA

KRCS aid reaches most impoverished families

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) yesterday distributed coupons to limited income families in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh district to enable them buy Eid clothes, gifts and food. Hayat Al-Marzouq, an official at KRCS local aid department said that toys that were given to children of these families were donated by the National Bank of Kuwait and milk from the KDD dairy company. The society staff, in coordination with volunteers, will visit more houses of such families in the coming days to deliver these aid coupons. Volunteer Amina Al-Sherif, a citizen who has lived abroad and volunteered two weeks ago, revealed in remarks to KUNA that some of the families in Kuwait live under poverty line. Abu Mohammad, father of one of these impoverished families, said, "We live in dwelling where we suffer from recurring power outages thus making us suffer in such extreme heat." The paralyzed man, who has called for help so that he can buy a wheelchair, lives with his seven-member family in a small ramshackled house of one bedroom, single toilet with old and damaged plumbing. The miserable family hardly makes ends meet with donations. —KUNA

China official's visit

KUWAIT: Vice Premier of the People's Republic of China Zhang Gaoli is scheduled to arrive in Kuwait on Monday, August 21, said a Kuwaiti diplomat yesterday. Kuwaiti Ambassador to China Dr Sameh Hayat affirmed the importance of the visit, noting that the top Chinese official is due to sign number of agreements during the three-day visit. Zhang Gaoli will meet His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. He will meet also with top officials and President of the Kuwaiti-Chinese Society Fuad Al-Ganim.

Mina Abdullah fire

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday sent cables to a number of State officials, thanking them for overseeing efforts to put out a fire that gutted a warehouse in Mina Abdullah port. In cables addressed to Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Information Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah and Minister of Health Dr Jamal Al-Harbi. His Highness the Amir heaped praise on firefighters for valiantly dousing the blaze, proving their commitment to the nation's welfare. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also sent similar cables. A fire erupted at a warehouse in Kuwait's port of Mina Abdullah in the wee hours of yesterday, only to be fully suppressed a short while later by a team of firefighters. Seven fire centers battled the blaze.

WORLD CLASS ONCOLOGY LABORATORY

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Health has opened the Yacoub Behbehani Laboratory, a world-class oncology laboratory and the first of its kind the Middle East, in Al-Sabah Medical zone in Kuwait City. The sophisticated oncogene laboratory, which is part of the ambitious Yacoub Behbehani Laboratory Building and Bone Marrow Transplantation Center, is expected to make a great difference in discovering and treating advanced and complicated types of cancer, ministry spokesman Dr Ahmad Al-Shatti said.

Some cancer patients do not improve after receiving chemotherapy, radiotherapy, or immunotherapy, and the



Dr Ahmad Al-Shatti

new laboratory would help discovery if they have any genetic mutation, thus allow their doctors to identify the most suitable treatment, he said. He added that these tests could also help doctors know the genetic mutations of other diseases such as children epilepsy, hearing loss, etc.

He pointed out that oncogene laboratory is equipped with the state-of-the-art equipment and devices. Previously, the ministry used to send samples for such tests to laboratories abroad and wait between 14-30 days to receive results, but now the new laboratory would provide it with results in less than one week. This will save much time and cost, he said. —KUNA

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KUWAIT IMMORTALIZES ICONIC ACTOR WITH COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS

KUWAIT: Despite scorching heat and summer-end high humidity, waves of nationals and residents yesterday gathered at funeral of the renowned Kuwaiti actor Abdulhussein Abdulredha to express their deep grief at the great loss and bid the last good-bye to the deceased. At around dusk, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Ghanem led the huge crowd of citizens and expatriates, overseeing with tearful eyes coffin of the actor, who had made them laugh for many years with his much applauded theatrical plays, being buried.

Speaking to reporters at the funeral, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Acting Minister of State for Youth Affairs Khaled Al-Roudhan, said Abdulredha was an example to follow with respect of work devotion and national unity. He represented all segments of the Kuwaiti society, the minister said, indicating that many Kuwaiti actors followed his steps. Presence of this large crowd of mourners reflects people's affection toward him, the minister added, alluding to thousands of people who gathered at the cemetery to bid Abdulredha's last good-bye.

Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Information Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, who received the coffin upon arrival by air in Kuwait, said the deceased had devoted his life for serving Kuwait and promoting ideal patriotic messages. Although his body has died, his works and thoughts will live on, the minister said in his eulogy of Abdulredha, who entertained people for many years with television, radio and theatrical works.

Bashar, son of the deceased, expressed deep gratitude to His Highness the Amir for transporting the coffin back home aboard an Amiri aircraft. Artist Bassem Abdulaminir said Abdulredha

had preached faithfulness to the homeland. The famous comedian Tareq Al-Ali said the Kuwaiti and Gulf arts "lost a basic foundation." Dr Habib Ghiloum, a UAE artist, said Abdulredha was a professor not only in arts but also in humanity.

Abdulredha passed away at age 78 in London last Friday after suffering from a health setback. The funeral drew a large crowd of people due to the popularity of the actor who had a prolific career spanning decades.

Likeness of Kuwait's late legendary actor Abdulhussein Abdulredha will now be emblazoned on special postage stamps, the ministry of state services announced. The stamps are but a token of appreciation for a man who was a household name and whose theatrical odyssey spanned for more than half a century, the ministry said in a statement. The statement added that the special stamps will be available in post offices nationwide soon. The shockwaves of grief are still sweeping through Kuwait after Abdulredha passed away due to a health setback on Friday.

Abdulredha dedicated his life in serving Kuwait, the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Information Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah said yesterday. The emotional reaction of the Kuwaiti people towards the prolific actor displayed the people's respect towards his decades-long legacy, said the minister. The minister took the chance to offer his condolences to the actor's family, saying that the audience will surely miss Abdulredha's artistic input.

"Get off my back, I'm in London to have fun, to change scenery and enjoy myself. I'm not in London to be hospitalized," was a line 'Abu Adnan' said in the 1981 play "Bye Bye London." Born on July 15, 1939 in Dirwazat Abdullazzaq,



Sharq, Kuwait, Abdulredha ranked the seventh among 14 siblings. He did not start his career as an actor, but first worked in the Department of Printing of the Ministry of Guidance and Information. He then traveled on a scholarship to Egypt in 1956 to learn printmaking, and in 1961 he traveled on a mission to Germany to complete his studies in printmaking arts.

A son of a 'Nokhetha' or sea captain, Abdulredha's talent of performing to crowds and ability to make people laugh started with him as a young boy, entertaining his mother with his siblings while his father was away for months a year. This raw talent then was nurtured, developed and put on the right track after Abdulredha returned from Germany and

started working with Egyptian director Zaki Tulaimat, before a young Abdulredha began to carve his own way to become one of Kuwait's and the Arabian Gulf's art pillars.

With dozens of plays, TV and radio series that spanned from the early 1960s all the way to the early years of this Millennium, Abdulredha had long established himself as among the few Gulf actors to sear their names in the Arabic artistic memory. His side-splitting slapstick comedy in the 1960s (eg Hawer Zaver, Al-Malgouf), dapper and dashing performances during the 1970s (eg Bani Samit, Thahiyat Beit Al-Ezz), and mature and well-rounded productions in the 1980s (eg Fursan Al-Manakh, Bye Bye Arab), continued until the end of his career,

and eventually his life. Abdulredha kept on going, unstoppable, even bullets could not steer him off.

He was the target of an assassination attempt due to his role portraying the former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein in the 1991 play (Seif Al-Arab). Arguably, one of the best whoever mastered the role, Adulredha refused to cancel, or even delay the show for that night even though he was fired at while on the way to the theater. Frequently referred to as Kuwait's forth Tower, Abdulredha was in many ways, and seen by many of his fans of different generations, as the personification of the Kuwaiti man, whether it was for his political humor, social rants, or even own speech and appearance. — KUNA



Expressions of sorrow and sadness displayed during the reception of actor Abdulredha's remains.



Remains of legendary actor Abdulhussein Abdulredha arrives in Kuwait. —Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat and KUNA



KUWAIT BIDS FAREWELL TO ACTOR ABDULREDHA, PHILANTHROPISTS

KUWAIT: Kuwait has witness an atmosphere of utter sadness and sorrow as people of all walks of life will bid their final farewell to legendary Kuwaiti actor Abdulhussein Abdulredha and Kuwaiti philanthropists and religious figures the State's Grand Mosque Imam Dr Waleed Al-Ali and Fahad Al-Hussaini. Today's morning will be especially

traumatic for people who will bring the bodies of the deceased Kuwaitis to their final resting place.

Renowned Kuwaiti actor Abdulredha passed away in London at the beginning of the week after suffering from a health setback. Abdulredha began his acting career in 1961 and had left several landmark perform-

ances in theater and television. As for Al-Ali and Al-Hussaini, the two Kuwaitis were in Burkina Faso on a charity mission before they were killed in a terrorist attack targeting a cafe in the capital Ouagadougou. The attack in Burkina Faso had received strong condemnations from the Kuwaiti leadership and leading figures in society. — KUNA



Kuwaiti philanthropists and religious figures at the State's Grand Mosque Imam Dr Waleed Al-Ali and Fahad Al-Hussaini

Kuwaiti actor Abdulhussein Abdulredha

Crime

Report

'FAKE COLONEL'

KUWAIT: Detectives are working on identifying a person who called Interior Ministry operations claiming to be a lieutenant colonel and asked for information about certain people. When operations officers checked on him, they found he was lying.

Addict beats sister

Detectives are working on arresting a drug addict who beat his eldest sister, took her ATM card and withdrew the amount left from her salary. The woman told police that her brother went to her house while her husband was out. He then asked her for KD 400, and when she refused, he beat her, took her debit card and forced her to tell him the PIN while threatening to beat her daughter. She said that 30 minutes later, she received an SMS from the bank telling her that KD 870 was withdrawn from her bank account. The woman called her husband, who rushed home, and when he saw the bruises on her face, he took her to the police station.

Illegal entry

A Gulf national accused two men for entering his house without permission, then escaping when they saw him. He noted down their car's license plate number. Detectives are working on their arrest.

Under the influence

A Kuwaiti in his 30s was arrested by Fahaheel police for suspicions of being drunk, and will be sent to forensics to determine whether he had alcohol in his blood. Meanwhile, police are looking for a man who collided with two patrol cars, then escaped on foot, leaving his friend and a car with two collapsed tires behind. The suspects will be charged with DUI and damaging public property. The car was impounded.

Bottles of liquor

Ahmadi police arrested an Argentinean and an Indian with a large amount of liquor they were selling to expats. The two escaped when policemen approached the car they were in, but were caught and brought back to the car, which contained 109 large and 17 small bottles. — Al Rai/Al Anbaa



Al-Qabas

A 'KUWAITI'

By Abdellatif Al-Duaij

The late Abdulhussein Abdulredha fought against backwardness and extremism along with other great artists. There isn't a single Kuwaiti, as far as I know, who looked at Abdulhussein as a different man or a stranger. The bedoons did not look at him as (hadhar) urban or the Sunnis as a Shiite. Those who call themselves the children of the fence did not see him as an outsider. Everyone cried for the son and actor of Kuwait, who appeared only as a "Kuwaiti" through his work and that is how he departed from us, as a Kuwaiti.

An individual does not necessarily have to be famous or generous to be a distinguished Kuwaiti like the late Abdeulhussein. Every citizen has the same recognition, honor and rights that were granted to the late Abdulhussein Abdulredha when he died. We are all supposed to be Kuwaitis, we differ from each other as individuals and each of us have our own personality, performance, and capabilities, that make us somebody, but at the end we remain still children of Adam, according to the law of Kuwaitis.

In primitive societies, or societies of past eras, human beings are looked at collectively, not as a distinguished individual, but as a tribe or sect or even the region doesn't matter whether Azmi or Mutairi, Sunni or Shiite, from the inside or outside, from the east or from qibla. In the good society that is ruled by law and true democratic principles in justice and equality, the human being is an individual with his qualifications and abilities, and he is measured by them, and with them he is categorized and promoted.

He is protected by the law and his rights are safeguarded by state institutions. It is not the tribe, sect and not even the family or those who have influence on them among friends as in this case with great regret. Abdulhssein Abdulredha, a man we loved and adored for his art and contribution died a Kuwaiti, and we buried him as a Kuwaiti. He united us in his life, and united us even more in his death. Let us remember him from today as a Kuwaiti and that's it.



Al-Anbaa

ABU ADNAN

By Dr Nermin Al-Houti

"O soul at peace, return to your Lord, well-pleased, well-pleasing. Join my servants. Enter my paradise." The Quran 89:27-29. You will always be in our hearts "Abu Adnan." I cannot find the words to mourn over my mentor and legend of the Gulf theater other than "May Allah bestow his mercy on you Abdulhussein Abdulredha, and we ask Allah to let you into heaven, and give your family, fans and students patience during this sad time. You have left us, but what reduces our sadness is the thought that you will always remain in our soul, school, work and all that you instilled in Kuwait and Gulf's culture which will always be a guiding light for us.

Bu Adnan has been a beacon of generosity and humbleness. He is the dean of the Gulf theater, what he has instilled will help develop Kuwaiti theater; this is the history through which he will always be remembered. Bu Adnan had only one goal that is to unite the people, which was fulfilled when people from different countries united in prayers for him. Even his departure became a day of love despite the sadness that shrouded the Arab world.

Though he departed, he is present in our hearts just like he used to and you will always remain the present in Kuwait's and Arabian Gulf's history. Thanks to the leader of culture and Gulf information, our father and leader of humanity HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. May Allah protect him, for all that you have done, your highness and for the dean of the Gulf theater Abdulhussein Abdelredha, May Allah bestow His mercy on him."

The advertisement features a bright yellow background with various summer-themed icons like sunglasses, a beach ball, a starfish, a game controller, a thumbs up, a WhatsApp icon, and a beach ball. At the top left is the Zain logo. The main text reads: "DOUBLE YOUR GBs THIS SUMMER". Below this, it says "take it eeZee". The largest text is "50GB" with "25GB" crossed out above it. At the bottom right, it says "For KD 8". At the bottom, it says "Send GO to 999". The website "kw.zain.com/summer" is at the bottom left, and "A Wonderful World" is at the bottom right. A small vertical text on the left side says "Terms and conditions apply".



Duterte praises police killings of 32, urges more

INDIA, CHINA TROOPS IN HIGH-ALTITUDE CLASH



NEW YORK: US President Donald Trump delivers remarks following a meeting on infrastructure at Trump Tower on Tuesday. Standing alongside him (from left) are Director of the National Economic Council Gary Cohn, Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin, Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao and Director of the Office of Management and Budget Mick Mulvaney. — AFP

DEFIANT TRUMP AGAIN BLAMES ‘BOTH SIDES’

REPS BALK, DEMS AGHAST, AIDES SHOCKED AT PRESIDENT’S ABOUT-FACE

NEW YORK: US President Donald Trump defiantly blamed “both sides” for the weekend violence between white supremacists and counter-demonstrators in Virginia, seeking to rebuff the widespread criticism of his handling of the emotionally-charged protests while showing sympathy for the fringe group’s efforts to preserve Confederate monuments.

In doing so, Trump used the bullhorn of the presidency to give voice to the grievances of white nationalists, and aired some of his own. His remarks Tuesday amounted to a rejection of the Republicans, business leaders and White House advisers who earlier this week had pushed the president to more forcefully and specifically condemn the KKK members, neo-Nazis and white supremacists who took to the streets of Charlottesville.

The angry exchange with reporters at his skyscraper hotel in New York City laid bare a reality of the Trump presidency: Trump cannot be managed by others or steered away from damaging political land mines. His top aides were stunned by his comments, with some - including new chief of staff John Kelly - standing by helplessly as the president escalated his rhetoric. Standing in the lobby of Trump Tower, Trump acknowledged that there were “some very bad people” among those who gathered to protest Saturday. But he added:

“You also had people that were very fine people, on both sides.” The rally was organized by white supremacists and other groups under a “Unite the Right” banner. Organizers said they were initially activated by their objections to the removal of a statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E Lee, but the larger aim was to protest what they saw as an “anti-white” climate in America. In his remarks, Trump condemned bigoted ideology and called James Alex Fields Jr, who drove his car into a crowd of counter-protester killing a 32-year-old woman, “a disgrace to himself, his family and his country.” But Trump also expressed support for those seeking to maintain the monument to Lee, equating him with some of the nation’s founders who also owned slaves. “So, this week it’s Robert E Lee,” he said. “I noticed that Stonewall Jackson’s coming down. I wonder, is it George Washington next week and is it Thomas Jefferson the week after? You really do have to ask yourself, where does it stop?” He continued: “You’re changing history. You’re changing culture.”

The president’s comments effectively wiped away the more conventional statement he delivered at the White House a day earlier when he branded the white supremacists who take part in violence as “criminals and thugs”. Trump’s advisers had hoped those remarks

might quell criticism of his initial response, but the president’s retorts Tuesday suggested he had been a reluctant participant in that cleanup effort.

Once again, the blowback was swift, including from fellow Republicans. Sen Marco Rubio of Florida said Trump should not allow white supremacists “to share only part of the blame.” House Speaker Paul Ryan declared in a tweet that “white supremacy is repulsive” and there should be “no moral ambiguity,” though he did not specifically address the president. Trump’s remarks were welcomed by former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke, who tweeted: “Thank you President Trump for your honesty & courage to tell the truth.” Some of the president’s comments Tuesday mirrored rhetoric from the far-right fringe. A post Monday by the publisher of The Daily Stormer, a notorious neo-Nazi website, predicted that protesters are going to demand that the Washington Monument be torn down.

Troubling questions

Trump’s handling of the weekend violence has raised new and troubling questions, even among some supporters. Members of his own Republican Party have pressured him to be more vigorous in criticizing bigoted groups, and business leaders have begun abandoning a

White House jobs panel in response to his comments. White House officials were caught off guard by his remarks Tuesday. He had signed off on a plan to ignore questions from journalists during an event touting infrastructure policies, according to a White House official not authorized to speak publicly about a private discussion. Once behind the lectern and facing the cameras, he overruled the decision.

As Trump talked, his aides on the sidelines in the lobby stood in silence. Chief of staff John Kelly crossed his arms and stared down at his shoes, barely glancing at the president. Press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders looked around the room trying to make eye contact with other senior aides. One young staffer stood with her mouth agape.

Kelly was brought into the White House less than a month ago to try to bring order and stability to a chaotic West Wing. Some Trump allies hoped the retired Marine general might be able to succeed where others have failed: controlling some of Trump’s impulses. But the remarks Tuesday once again underscored Trump’s insistence on airing his complaints and opinions. Democrats were aghast at Trump’s comments. Virginia Sen Tim Kaine said on Twitter that the Charlottesville violence “was fueled by one side: white supremacists spreading racism, intolerance & intimidation. Those are the facts.” Sen Brian Schatz of Hawaii said on Twitter that he no longer views Trump as his president. “As a Jew, as an American, as a human, words cannot express my disgust and disappointment,” Schatz said. “This is not my president.”

When asked to explain his Saturday comments about Charlottesville, Trump looked down at his notes and again read a section of his initial statement that denounced bigotry but did not single out white supremacists. He then tucked the paper back into his jacket pocket. Trump, who has quickly deemed other deadly incidents in the US and around the world as acts of terrorism, waffled when asked whether the car death was a terrorist attack.

“There is a question. Is it murder? Is it terrorism?” Trump said. “And then you get into legal semantics. The driver of the car is a murderer and what he did was a horrible, horrible, inexcusable thing,” Trump said he had yet to call the mother of crash victim Heather Heyer, but would soon “reach out.” He praised her for what he said was a nice statement about him on social media. As he finally walked away from his lectern, he stopped to answer one more shouted question: Would he visit Charlottesville? The president noted he owned property there and said - inaccurately - that it was one of the largest wineries in the United States. — AP

LEBANON SCRAPS REVILED RAPE LAW

BEIRUT: Lebanon’s parliament yesterday scrapped a controversial law allowing rapists who marry their victims to go free, official media and activists said, after a high-profile campaign for its repeal. A proposal to repeal Article 522 of the penal code - which deals with rape, assault, kidnapping and forced marriage - was introduced last year and approved by a parliamentary committee in February. On Wednesday, it was ratified by the full parliament, the official National News Agency and activist group ABAAD said.

“Congratulations to women in Lebanon,” the NGO wrote in a statement on its Facebook page. “Today’s win is a victory for the dignity of women,” it added. “It is no longer possible to escape punishment for rape and sexual acts carried out by force and coercion,” said the group, which has spearheaded the campaign to repeal the much-reviled article. The article, which also dealt with the rape of minors, allowed for the perpetrator of sexual assault to avoid prosecution by marrying their victim. There are no precise figures on how many rapists marry their victims to avoid punishment, but activists say the practice mainly took place in rural areas. Lebanon’s decision comes just over two weeks after Jordan’s parliament passed a similar article in its penal code. — AFP



BEIRUT: In this March 15, 2017 file photo, an activist from the Lebanese NGO ABAAD stands in a golden cage dressed as a bride while during a protest in front of a government building in downtown Beirut. — AP

ISRAEL TV: IRAN BUILDING ROCKET FACTORY IN SYRIA

JERUSALEM: An Israeli television report said yesterday that Iran is building a facility in northwest Syria to manufacture long-range rockets, and showed satellite images it said were of the site under construction. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned last week that Iran was strengthening its foothold in its ally Syria as Islamic State fighters were being displaced, and said Israel was watching developments and would act against any threat.

“Our policy is clear: We vehemently oppose the military buildup by Iran and its proxies, primarily Hezbollah, in Syria and we will do whatever it takes to protect Israel’s security,” he said in a speech. The Channel 2 television news report showed images it said were taken by an Israeli satellite showing a site in northwest Syria near the Mediterranean coastal town of Baniyas, saying some of the construction indicated explosives would be stored there.

It compared images of buildings it said were of a rocket factory near Tehran to structures at the Syrian site, and said there was a strong

resemblance between them. Netanyahu has been harshly critical of a 2015 deal that six world powers including the United States under then-president Barack Obama struck with Iran to curb its nuclear program in return for an end to multilateral sanctions.

Iran is Israel’s avowed enemy, and Israel argues that the agreement fails to prevent Iranian weapons posing a threat to its very existence. Iran says its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes only. The United States last month slapped new economic sanctions on Iran over its ballistic missile program and said Tehran’s “malign activities” in the Middle East had undercut any “positive contributions” from the 2015 accord curbing its nuclear program.

US President Donald Trump has frequently criticized the agreement as being too soft on Tehran, which remains subject to a UN arms embargo and other restrictions. US news reports have said that Israeli intelligence officials will discuss the situation in Syria and Lebanon with US counterparts in Washington this week. — Reuters



KOBAR: People check the remains of the house of a Palestinian after it was demolished by Israeli authorities in this village near Ramallah in the occupied West Bank yesterday. — AFP

ISRAEL DEMOLISHES HOME OF PALESTINIAN WHO STABBED 3

KOBAR: Israeli forces demolished the home yesterday of a Palestinian who fatally stabbed three Israelis in a nearby settlement as tensions soared last month over Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa mosque compound. The military confirmed the demolition in the village of Kobar in the occupied West Bank. Residents said that army vehicles and bulldozers entered the area north of Ramallah at around 3:00 am (0000 GMT) and surrounded the two-storey house, one floor of which was still under construction.

Clashes broke out in the area between stone-throwing Palestinians and Israeli soldiers. According to the Palestinian Red Crescent, 12 people were wounded by rubber bullets. Video appeared to show a Palestinian news cameraman, Mohammed Radi, being hit in the nose with a rubber bullet. It seemed from the video that clashes were not taking place at that time and location. Radi was later treated at a hospital in Ramallah. Israel's army said it was looking into the "claim".

"During overnight activity in the village of Kobar, a riot of about 100 Palestinians erupted," an army spokeswoman said. "During the riot, the protesters ignited tyres and hurled rocks toward (Israeli) soldiers. The forces used crowd control measures to disperse the riot." It added that the "claim that a Palestinian journalist was lightly injured by rubber bullets is currently being reviewed." In recent weeks, Israeli authorities also arrested the father, mother and three brothers of the 19-year-old attacker, Omar al-Abed, according to villagers. The family members are suspected of having known of Abed's plans to carry out the attack in the nearby Israeli settlement of Neve Tsuf, also known as Halamish, and of failing to prevent it, Israeli media reported. The Israeli army

said the assailant had spoken of Al-Aqsa and of dying as a martyr in a Facebook post. He was shot while carrying out the attack and later arrested.

The July 21 attack came with tensions high over the highly sensitive mosque compound in Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem, known to Jews as the Temple Mount. Violence erupted in and around the compound last month after three Arab Israelis shot dead two policemen on July 14 before being killed by security forces. Israel responded to that attack by installing metal detectors at the entrance to the holy site, used as a staging point for the attack.

For nearly two weeks, worshippers refused to submit to the checks and held mass prayers in surrounding streets. Ensuing protests and clashes left seven Palestinians dead and the stabbings of the Israelis at the settlement was carried out at the height of the tensions. The crisis abated when Israel removed the detectors. The Jerusalem holy site, which includes the revered Al-Aqsa mosque and the golden-topped Dome of the Rock, is the third-holiest in Islam and the most sacred for Jews.

Central to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the compound is located in east Jerusalem, occupied by Israel in 1967 and later annexed in a move never recognized by the international community. Palestinians fear Israel will gradually seek to assert further control over it, though Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said repeatedly he is committed to the status quo. Israel regularly demolishes the homes of Palestinian attackers, calling it a deterrent against future violence. However, human rights groups say it amounts to collective punishment, with family members forced to suffer for the acts of relatives.

ARAB FIGHTERS STRUGGLE TO ASSERT ROLE IN RAQQA

FIGHT AGAINST IS SPEARHEADED BY KURDISH MILITIA

RAQQA, Syria: The inexperienced fighters in an Arab group battling to take Raqqa back from Islamic State are playing a secondary role to hardened Kurdish militia in the campaign for their home city. The performance of one lightly trained group seen by Reuters in Raqqa underscored the difficulty of making Arabs the "vanguard" in the battle for the mostly Arab city, as the United States said last year they would be.

In one recent incident, the fighters were quick to open fire after stray bullets flew above their makeshift compound. "Cease fire! Can you even see what you're shooting at? Our comrades are somewhere up ahead!" their 27-year-old commander Hassan Khalil shouted to his fighters in the Foj Al-Raqqa (Raqqa Regiment).

Meanwhile, Reuters reporters covering the Raqqa assault have watched the Kurdish YPG militia take the most visible role. It is a sensitive point both for Syrian Arabs and for neighboring Turkey, which is fighting a Kurdish insurgency in its south-east and has unsuccessfully lobbied Washington to abandon its alliance with the YPG. Turkey opposes the YPG's role in the operation, saying it threatens to change the demographics of Raqqa. But in March the new US administration started distributing arms to the YPG ahead of a final assault. The ragtag, 300-strong Foj al-Raqqa appears to have a more minor role. They are among the myriad militias swelling the ranks of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) alliance, formed in 2015 to fight IS.

"We're proud to be SDF. We hope Arab forces will become as strong as the YPG," Khalil said at Foj

al-Raqqa's makeshift base near the frontline last week. A live booby-trapped bomb rigged by Islamic State militants still lay on their kitchen floor. A YPG commander at a nearby house said the new recruits were inexperienced but useful. "They're keen to fight, and they know the area so it's good for intelligence," Haval Qahraman said.

SDF spokesman Mostafa Bali said Foj Al-Raqqa was made up of men from the city. But in a sign of its subsidiary role, two other senior SDF officials in the alliance's office in the town of Ain Issa said they had not heard of the group. Arab fighters hope for a long-term role in Raqqa's security. But Foj Al-Raqqa's future is uncertain - governance and security arrangements in Raqqa have not been finalized as the fight to capture the city rages.

Another YPG commander said last week that the SDF had surrounded IS in central Raqqa, but predicted that the battle could last up to four more months. In other areas taken by the alliance, such as the town of Manbij, security was handed over to mostly local forces who formed military councils that remained attached to the SDF. Whether Foj Al-Raqqa will receive further training and play that role is unclear. For now, it focuses on the fighting. "Our goal and that of our comrades is the same - finishing off Daesh," Khalil said, using a pejorative term for Islamic State.

Native to Raqqa

US coalition forces have trained more than 5,000 Arab fighters since the Raqqa campaign began in November, spokesman Colonel Ryan

Dillon said. The current number of Arabs in the SDF is around 24,000 with 31,000 Kurds, he told Reuters. Foj Al-Raqqa wore SDF patches on their clothes. Many others wear the patches of their own militia - often the YPG. A senior US general recently equated the SDF with the YPG, saying the SDF formed after Washington advised the YPG to change its brand.

A YPG commander acknowledged that the Kurdish militia was playing a leading role in Raqqa, but played up the part played by the Arab forces, saying it showed there was no ethnic approach in the operation. Foj Al-Raqqa is new and made up of men native to Raqqa who fled the city during the SDF's offensive in recent months. Its fighters were given a crash course in weapons training by the US-led coalition, which also backs the assault on Raqqa with special forces and air strikes.

US Training, Soviet Weapons

The fighters, many around 20 years old, showed videos on their phones of skirmishes. In one, they tried in vain to shoot down an IS drone. Another showed them attacking a sniper position using a rocket-propelled grenade launcher. Khalil's second-in-command, Mohammed Hawi, described a 23-day training U.S. forces gave them at a camp in northern Syria after security vetting. "They taught us how to fire AK47s, Doshka heavy machine guns, BKC light machine guns," all Soviet-made weapons. "We learned how to spot booby traps. They filled a room with mock bombs and we'd have to identify them. One mistake and an alarm went off." — Reuters

IRAN REJECTS US FREEDOM REPORT AS HYPOCRITICAL

TEHRAN: Iran yesterday rejected a US religious freedom report critical of Tehran as "hypocritical", coming from a country where Islamophobia was widespread. Washington released its annual religious freedom report on Tuesday, with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson criticising Bahrain, China, Iran, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Turkey. Tillerson charged that Iran had used "vague apostasy laws" to execute 20 members of religious minorities over the past year.

"Iran considers it an unrealistic, baseless, unfounded and biased report which has only been made with the intention of certain political gains," foreign ministry spokesman Bahram Ghasemi hit back on the ministry's website. He said Washington should focus on improving

its own record of discrimination, particularly regarding its Muslim population. "It is clear that religious and racial discrimination, Islamophobia, and xenophobia are a widespread and frequent phenomenon among American politicians," said Ghasemi. "Muslims in America face violent and discriminating actions on a daily basis by state bodies like the police and security forces."

The US report said the Iranian government "continued to harass, interrogate and arrest Bahais, Christians, Sunni Muslims and other religious minorities and regulated Christian religious practices closely to enforce the prohibition on proselytizing." The government in Tehran also used anti-Semitic language and promoted Holocaust denial, it charged. — AFP

TRIO DIGGING FOR TREASURE BUSTED

RIYADH: Three Saudis may face prison after authorities busted the trio digging through archaeological sites in the kingdom, authorities and reports said yesterday. The Commission for Tourism and National Heritage said it had referred three Saudi citizens to the public prosecutor's office for digging through archaeological sites after "false reports of hidden treasure" began to circulate online.

The commission issued a public warning against "taking action based on false information, which would damage archaeological sites and sites that contain important archaeological records". Newspapers close to Saudi Arabia's government reported prosecutors may charge the three excavators under the country's archaeological protection law, which would carry a prison sentence of "no less than one month and no more than one year". Saudi Arabia is home to dozens of archeological sites, including ruins dating back to the second century BC. — AFP

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BRITAIN SEEKS BREXIT WITHOUT BORDERS FOR N IRELAND

LONDON/DUBLIN: Britain has said there should be no border posts or immigration checks between Ireland and the British province of Northern Ireland after Brexit, in a paper that attempts to resolve one of the most complex aspects of its departure from the European Union.

Some 30,000 people cross the 500-km (300-mile) border every day without customs or immigration controls; negotiators must work out new arrangements without inflaming tensions in a region that suffered decades of bloody turmoil before a peace deal in 1998. As part of a series of papers that Prime Minister Theresa May hopes will push forward talks with the EU, the government on Tuesday outlined its vision for a "frictionless" customs system, which one EU politician described as "fantasy".

Yesterday's publication drew heavily on those proposals as a solution for Northern Ireland that would not involve "physical border infrastructure and border posts", or electronic surveillance. Reaching agreement with the EU on this was top of Britain's list of Brexit priorities, the government said.

The aim is "to find a practical solution that recognizes the unique economic, social and cultural context of the land border with Ireland, without creating any new obstacles to trade within the UK," Northern Ireland minister James Brokenshire said. May also said Britain would consider stepping in to replace some EU funding for peace projects in Northern Ireland after it leaves the bloc in March 2019, to prevent a resurgence of violence between pro-British Protestants and Catholic Irish nationalists.

Detail needed

Irish Foreign Minister Simon Coveney welcomed the proposals, saying Britain had acknowledged for



This June 15, 2016 file photo of traffic crossing the border between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland in the village of Bridgend, Co Donegal Ireland. Britain said yesterday that there must be no border posts between Northern Ireland and the Irish republic after Brexit. —AP

the first time that it would not be practical to depend on technological solutions to monitor the border. "Of course what we don't have, though, is the detail as to how it's going to work," he said. But Senator Mark Daly, deputy leader of Ireland's opposition Fianna F-il party, said the proposals for a frictionless border appeared "more like fiction, and clueless on this island".

"It will be a smugglers' charter," he told BBC Radio

Four. Northern Ireland sold 2.7 billion pounds (\$3.5 billion) of goods into Ireland in 2015, according to official figures, and many businesses have complex supply chains that involve crossing the border multiple times during the production process. The Sinn Fein party, which wants a referendum on ending British rule in Northern Ireland and uniting the island under the Irish flag, said it doubted an open

border could be delivered. "They have not put anything concrete on the table...we are a fleeting concern to the British government, collateral damage in the Brexit negotiations," said Michelle O'Neill, Sinn Fein's leader in Northern Ireland. Britain said it wanted to maintain the Common Travel Area (CTA), a pact that allows free movement between the United Kingdom and Ireland for British and Irish citizens, with no need for passport controls and "no question of new immigration checks operating between Northern Ireland and Ireland". That would mean EU citizens wishing to enter Britain could do so by travelling legitimately to Ireland and crossing the border unchecked - something that is likely to antagonize the many Britons for whom controlling immigration was a key reason for backing Brexit.

"If you don't have any of these checks between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland - the UK-EU border - and you don't have any between Northern Ireland and Great Britain, well then, where do you check immigration?" Conor McGinn, a spokesman for the opposition Labour Party, told Sky News. "It seems to me that the government has handed back control of its border to the EU".

The government said control over migration from the EU into Britain could be exercised by restrictions on access to the British social security system and labour market. Further details would be set out in a future document on immigration. Britain also wants to introduce new "trusted trader" arrangements to help larger companies and make smaller firms exempt from customs processes. It rejected the idea of an effective customs border in the Irish Sea that separates England, Wales and Scotland from Ireland and Northern Ireland as "not constitutionally or economically viable". — Reuters

CHINA ASKS US, N KOREA TO 'HIT THE BRAKES' ON THREATS

TRUMP PRAISES N KOREAN LEADER'S DECISION NOT TO FIRE MISSILES

BEIJING: China is telling the US and North Korea to "hit the brakes" on threatening words and actions and work toward a peaceful resolution of their dispute, in a sign of growing concern over the standoff on the part of Pyongyang's only major ally.

Foreign Minister Wang Yi said in a phone conversation with his Russian counterpart, Sergey Lavrov, that the two countries should work together to contain tensions and permit no one to "stir up an incident on their doorstep," according to a statement posted on the Chinese foreign ministry's website. "The most important task at hand is for the US and North Korea to 'hit

annual military exercises with South Korea in exchange for Pyongyang halting its missile and nuclear tests as a first step toward direct talks.

Yesterday, the chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, Marine Corps Gen Joseph Dunford, continued a visit to China following talks the day before with his Chinese counterpart that touched on North Korea. No details of the talks have been released.

Dunford on Tuesday told Fang Fenghui, chief of the People's Liberation Army's joint staff department, that the sides had "many difficult issues" between them but were willing to deal with them through dialogue.

to dialogue, but that's up to (Kim)." Lobbing missiles toward Guam, a major US military hub in the Pacific, would be deeply provocative from the US perspective. A miscalculation on either side could lead to military confrontation.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in, meanwhile, a liberal who favors diplomacy, urged North Korea to stop provocations and to commit to talks over its nuclear weapons program.

Moon, in a televised speech Tuesday on the anniversary of World War II's end and the Korean Peninsula's liberation from Japanese colonial rule, said Seoul and Washington agree that the nuclear standoff should "absolutely be solved peacefully." He said no US military action on the Korean Peninsula could be taken without Seoul's consent.

North Korea's military said last week that it would finalize the plan to fire four ballistic missiles near Guam, which is about 3,200 kilometers (2,000 miles) from Pyongyang. It would be a test of the Hwasong-12, a new missile the country flight-tested for the first time in May. The liquid-fuel missile is designed to be fired from road mobile launchers and has been described by North Korea as built for attacking Alaska and Hawaii.

Trump's praise

US President Donald Trump yesterday praised North Korean leader Kim Jong Un for a "wise" decision not to fire missiles towards the US territory of Guam, which has eased escalating tension between the two countries.

Reclusive North Korea has made no secret of its plan to develop a missile capable of firing a nuclear warhead at the United States to counter what it perceives as constant US threats of invasion. Trump warned North Korea last week it would face "fire and fury" if it threatened the United States, prompting North Korea to say it was considering plans to fire missiles towards the Pacific island of Guam.

But North Korean media reported on Tuesday Kim had delayed the decision while he waited to see what the United States did next. "Kim Jong Un of North Korea made a very wise and well-reasoned decision," Trump wrote on Twitter. "The alternative would have been both catastrophic and unacceptable!" North Korea's threat to fire towards Guam had prompted Trump to say earlier that the US military was "locked and loaded" if North Korea acted unwisely.

North Korea has long ignored warnings from the West and from its lone major ally, China, to halt its nuclear and missile tests which it conducts in defiance of UN Security Council resolutions. The United States has been hoping China can press the North to rein in its weapons programs. The top US general reiterated that in talks in Beijing this week. —Agencies

North Korea plan

North Korea's military on Tuesday presented leader Kim Jong Un with plans to launch missiles into waters near the US territory of Guam and "wring the windpipes of the Yankees," even as both Korea and the United States signaled their willingness to avert a deepening crisis, with each suggesting a path toward negotiations.

The tentative interest in diplomacy follows unusually combative threats between Trump and North Korea amid worries Pyongyang is nearing its long-sought goal of being able to send a nuclear missile to the US mainland. Next week's start of US-South Korean military exercises that enrage the North each year could make diplomacy even more difficult.

US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson told reporters in Washington on Tuesday, "We continue to be interested in trying to find a way to get



BEIJING: Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Joseph Dunford speaks with a Chinese official before boarding his plane at Beijing Capital International Airport in Beijing, China yesterday to travel to Shenyang, China to observe a Chinese Military Exercise. —AP

the brakes" on their mutual needling of each other with words and actions, to lower the temperature of the tense situation and prevent the emergence of an "August crisis," Wang was quoted as saying in the Tuesday conversation.

The ministry quoted Lavrov as saying tensions could rise again with the US and South Korea set to launch large-scale military exercises on Aug. 21. "A resolution of the North Korea nuclear issue by military force is completely unacceptable and the peninsula's nuclear issue must be peacefully resolved by political and diplomatic methods," Lavrov was quoted as saying.

China is North Korea's main economic partner and political backer, although relations between Beijing and Pyongyang have deteriorated amid the North's continuing defiance of China's calls for restraint. In recent months, China has joined with Russia in calling for the US to suspend



PAJU: Visitors walk by the map of two Koreas at the Imjingak Pavilion in Paju, South Korea, yesterday. —AP

NORTH KOREA THREAT PROMPTS GUAM NATIVES TO ASSERT RIGHTS

HAGATNA, Guam: The threatened missile attack by North Korea on Guam has prompted calls for peace from the island's indigenous people, who are weary of yet another conflict after enduring centuries of hostilities. About one-third of the US territory's 160,000 people identify as Chamorro, the indigenous group that is believed to have migrated to Guam from Indonesia and the Philippines an estimated 3,500 to 4,000 years ago. It is believed to be one of the world's first seaward migrations.

They have since endured colonization by Spanish settlers, bloody skirmishes during World War II and a steady escalation of American military presence on the island. An expert on Guam says it would be "disastrous and tragic beyond words" for the island's indigenous culture if it were targeted in a war between the US and North Korea.

"These islands are the home of the Chamorro people," said Michael Lujan Bavacqua, an assistant professor of Chamorro Studies at the University of Guam. "Literally our bones are buried in the soil." Chamorros have their own traditions, including open ocean navigation of the kind recently highlighted in the Disney animated movie "Moana" and a Roman Catholic religious heritage introduced by colonizers and missionaries. The Spanish influence began after explorer Ferdinand Magellan arrived on the island in the 16th century.

Some Chamorros gathered at a peace rally this week to try to teach the world about their struggle to protect their ancestors' land, assert their rights as indigenous people and pursue some form of self-governance. Some women wore traditional floral head crowns called mwarmwars. Some men wore loincloths and traditional carved jewelry around their necks. One person blew a shell trumpet, as a summons to rise up.

"It's a call to stand in solidarity not just Chamorro people of this land, but for people all over the world because peace for

Guam means peace for the world," said Monaeka Flores, 39, an artist and lawmaker's aide. "If anything should happen here, that's going to be a global war. It's a call to respect the people. And respect the land and to stand in solidarity with us."

The battle for Guam

The battle for Guam between the United States and Japan during World War II almost completely destroyed Hagatna, the capital city. Not much effort was made to restore during the post-war years.

"You have erased the historical connections of these people. You have destroyed what they have been walking through for centuries," Malia Tony Ramirez, a historian with the Guam Department of Parks and Recreation, said of the three-week battle. The military's buildup of bases after the war destroyed more historical sites, he said, as did the development of hotels and resorts.

The Chamorro name refers to descendants of the initial people who settled on Guam and smaller, neighboring islands in the Marianas island chain. The US took control of Guam in 1898 after the Spanish-American War. The Navy ruled the island until Japan took control in 1941. The US installed civilian leadership and granted citizenship to Guam residents in 1950. Today, some Chamorros and others on Guam want the island to be independent or perhaps establish a "free association" relationship like some of its island neighbors have. The free association island states allow the US exclusive military access to their land and waters while their citizens have the right to live and work in the US.

Adrian Cruz, an activist and chairman of the Free Association Task Force, said the Chamorro language and traditions have kept his people together for 4,000 years. He said Chamorros will be fine regardless what happens, just like they were during World War II and under the Spanish. "The Chamorro people are resilient people, and we will survive," Cruz said. —AP

NEW UK AIRCRAFT CARRIER HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH ARRIVES AT PORT

LONDON: The HMS Queen Elizabeth, the biggest ship ever built for the British navy, sailed into its homeport for the first time yesterday as tens of thousands jammed the harbor to welcome it.

The 3 billion-pound (\$3.9 billion) ship arrived at Portsmouth Naval Base in southern England with sailors lining the flight deck and Royal Navy helicopters soaring above. A band of Royal Marines added to the pageantry as the families of service members lined the jetty to cheer the 919-foot (280-meter) vessel, which has been conducting sea trials since setting out from Rosyth dockyard in Scotland on June 27. "She is Britain's statement to the world: a demonstration of British military power and our commitment to a bigger global role," Defense Secretary Michael Fallon said. "The thousands of peo-

ple across the UK who have played a part in building her and her sister ship, HMS Prince of Wales, should be immensely proud as our future flagship enters Portsmouth."

The carrier was built specifically as a platform for the next generation of fighter jets and is expected to have two dozen F-35B aircraft on board by 2023. The Queen Elizabeth and the Prince of Wales will replace three smaller carriers that were retired over the past decade.

Fallon said in June that Russia would look at the new carrier with envy, comparing it to the "dilapidated" Admiral Kuznetsov, which was launched in 1985. Russia's defense ministry fired back, with a spokesman dismissing the Queen Elizabeth as just a "conveniently large sea target" that should stay close to US protection assets. — AP



PORTSMOUTH: Britain's new flagship HMS Queen Elizabeth arrives in Portsmouth, Britain yesterday. HMS Queen Elizabeth has arrived at its home port in southern England to great fanfare. —AP

SUSPECT'S BROTHER ARRESTED IN UK MODEL KIDNAPPING

LONDON: British police have arrested the brother of a Polish man suspected of kidnapping a British model and threatening to sell her on the dark web. The UK National Crime Agency says officers arrested Michal Konrad Herba yesterday in central England on an arrest warrant issued by Italy.

Italian police are holding his brother, Lukasz Pawel Herba, on suspicion of

abducting model Chloe Ayling. Ayling says she was lured to Milan last month for a fake photo shoot, then drugged, stuffed into a suitcase and held at a rural house by criminals who threatened to auction her online.

She was released after six days when Lukasz Herba took her to the British consulate in Milan. Michal Herba, who is 36, is due to appear in a London court today. —AP

DUTERTE PRAISES POLICE KILLINGS OF 32, URGES MORE



MANILA: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte holds documents containing a list of suspected drug dealers and users during the 19th Founding Anniversary of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption at the Malacanang Presidential Palace in Manila yesterday. — AP

MANILA: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte yesterday urged police to kill dozens of drug suspects every day, as he praised officers who shot dead 32 people this week in "shock and awe" raids.

Duterte's incendiary comments came as he acknowledged major problems in his drug war, which has claimed thousands of lives, admitting he could not win it as quickly as promised and lamenting a corrupt police force. In one of the deadliest operations of the war, police reported killing 32 people in raids on Monday on suspected drug traffickers in Bulacan province, which neighbors the capital of Manila.

"The ones who died recently in Bulacan, 32, in a massive raid, that was good," Duterte said in a speech to an anti-crime organization that has backed the drug war. "If we could kill another 32 everyday, then maybe we can reduce what ails this country." Earlier in the day Bulacan police chief Romeo Caramat held a press conference in Manila to publicise the raids, in which 109 suspects were also arrested. "We wanted to shock and awe these drug personalities," Caramat said.

"Other drug personalities will think twice before continuing with their drug trade," Caramat insisted the police had killed the suspects in self-defense, adding that pistols and grenades had been seized in the raids. "We know we have done nothing wrong," Caramat said.

He later told AFP that no police had been killed or wounded. When asked how it was possible there had been no police

wounded if the raiding officers had been acting in self defense, Caramat said: "Don't ask me to explain".

Police have killed 3,450 people in similar drug raids since Duterte came to office in the middle of last year, according to government data. More than 2,000 other people have been killed in drug-related crimes and thousands more murdered in unexplained circumstances, according to police data.

'Happy to slaughter'

Rights groups accuse police and state-sanctioned vigilantes of carrying out mass murder as they follow Duterte's orders to eradicate drug traffickers and addicts. Duterte said last year he would be "happy to slaughter" three million addicts. Rights groups say such statements are incitements to kill, and Duterte may be orchestrating a crime against humanity. Duterte easily won last year's presidential election largely on a vow to kill tens of thousands of drug traffickers and addicts, which he said was necessary to stop the country's slide to narco-state status.

He also promised during the campaign he would win his drug war in three to six months, a vow that resonated with voters fed up with high crime rates and corrupt politicians.

However Duterte, who is limited by the constitution to serving a single term of six years, has conceded in a series of speeches over the past week that he will not be able to eradicate the drug trade quickly as promised. — AFP

INDIA'S BONDED LABORERS BATTLE CAPTIVITY MENTALITY AFTER RESCUE

CHENNAI: After his rescue from abuse and overwork as a bonded laborer in a brick kiln in south India, Shanmugam Paneer has set up his own business making household items from bamboo.

But the lifeless monotone he uses to describe his five-year ordeal betrays an inner struggle to move on from one of India's most prevalent forms of human trafficking.

"For many, the process of coming out with the truth is far more painful than actually living those years in bondage," said Loretta Jhona, a counsellor with the US-based charity International Justice Mission.

"Freedom becomes an alien concept and they constantly battle with their captivity mentality." Though India banned bonded labor in 1976, it remains widespread, with millions working in fields, brick kilns, rice mills and brothels, or as domestic workers to pay off debts.

India announced an ambitious goal last year to rescue more than 18 million bonded laborers by 2030 and to increase fivefold the compensation that is paid to them, as part of a wider drive to tackle modern slavery. Rescued workers need more psychological help to become truly free, counsellors say, as they are often too scared to admit to suffering, such as sexual abuse, for fear of retribution from their former owners.

"People are released physically but not really released from the burden of the debt, or the mental trauma they have undergone," said Umi Daniel, a migration expert at the Aide et Action International charity. Many former slaves instinctively

curl up in their beds, used to spending a couple of hours sleeping in a cramped space, Jhona told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

While survivors of sex trafficking often receive help in shelter homes, rescued bonded laborers simply return to their villages and completely shut down.

"Very often there is no talk of the years spent in bondage," said Jhona, adding that workers often find it hard to tell her of their hopes for the future. "They ask us how they can have aspirations, when even to eat or sleep they needed permission from their owners," she said.

"It is heartbreaking to see people with nil dreams and no aspirations, even for their children. They don't think a better future can exist and most refuse to talk about any of it for months."

No fear

Some rescued bonded laborers are coming together to lobby for their rights and share their stories. Rukamana Deep says he finally "felt free" when he gave a lecture at the Odisha National Law University in April, describing how his family of four were trapped in a brick kiln. Deep was able to tell his tale in detail, recounting his anger, despair and helplessness as they worked round the clock to make up to 1,000 bricks a day for 100 Indian rupees (\$1.56). "There was no fear that day," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation in a telephone interview from his village in the eastern Indian state of Odisha. "I just wanted to tell my story." — Reuters



In this June 17 2016 photo, an Indian tourist rides on a horse back at the Pangong lake high up in Ladakh region of India. The Chinese soldiers hurled stones while attempting to enter Ladakh region near Pangong Lake on Tuesday but were confronted by Indian soldiers, said a top police officer. — AP

CHINA, INDIA SOLDIERS HURL STONES AT ONE ANOTHER

INCIDENTS ESCALATE TENSIONS IN BORDER STANDOFF

SRINAGAR: Chinese and Indian soldiers yelled and hurled stones at one another high in the Himalayas in Indian-controlled Kashmir, Indian officials said yesterday, potentially escalating tensions between two nations already engaged in a lengthy border standoff elsewhere.

The Chinese soldiers hurled stones while attempting to enter Ladakh region near Pangong Lake on Tuesday but were confronted by Indian soldiers, said a top police officer. The officer said Indian soldiers retaliated but neither side used guns.

China did not comment directly on the reported incident, but called on India to comply with earlier agreements and help maintain peace and stability along the border. An Indian intelligence officer said the confrontation occurred after Indian soldiers intercepted a Chinese patrol that veered into Indian-held territory after apparently it lost its way due to bad weather.

The officer said that soon the soldiers began shouting at each other and later threw stones. He said some soldiers from both sides received

minor injuries. After nearly 30 minutes of facing off, the two sides retreated to their positions, he said. An Indian military officer said the skirmish was brief but violent and for the first time stones were used.

All the officers spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue. Soldiers from the two countries are already locked in a bitter but non-violent standoff in Doklam, an area disputed between China and India's ally Bhutan, where New Delhi sent its soldiers in June to stop China from constructing a strategic road.

China demands that Indian troops withdraw unilaterally from the Doklam standoff before any talks can be held, while New Delhi says each side should stand down. China and India fought a border war in 1962 and much of their frontier remains unsettled despite several rounds of official-level talks.

In Beijing, foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said Chinese troops sought to avoid confrontations and said India should "make tangible efforts to maintain the peace

and stability of the border areas between the two countries." "I have no knowledge of the details you mentioned, but what I can tell you is that Chinese border troops have always been committed to maintaining the peace and tranquility of the China-India border areas," Hua told reporters at a regularly scheduled news conference.

The website of New Delhi-based English weekly India Today quoted a report by the Indian military intelligence, which said the use of stones was unprecedented and appeared intended to heighten tension without using lethal weapons. The report said the worst that has happened earlier was an isolated slap or pushing between soldiers from the two sides.

India's worries over Chinese repeated border crossings into Kashmir's Ladakh region have seen a massive Indian army buildup in the cold desert in recent years. The disputed Himalayan territory of Kashmir is divided between nuclear-armed India, Pakistan and China. The part held by China is contiguous to Tibet. — AP



JAKARTA: Dressed in traditional outfit, Indonesian President Joko Widodo (center), and his wife Iriana (right), share a light moment with House Speaker Osman Saptaningrat (second left), and his wife Serviaty (left), as they prepare for a group photo after Widodo delivered his State of The Nation address ahead of the country's Independence Day at the parliament building in Jakarta yesterday. — AP

News

in brief

US blacklists Kashmir militant group Hizbul

WASHINGTON: The Trump administration has added a Kashmiri militant group fighting to end Indian rule in the disputed Himalayan region to several terrorism blacklists. The designation blocks any assets the group may have in US jurisdictions and bars Americans from doing business with it. The State and Treasury departments said yesterday they had designated Hizbul Mujahideen a foreign terrorist organization and also added it to list of specially designated global terrorist groups. Hizbul Mujahideen is the largest of Kashmir's militant groups. Its founder, Syed Salahuddin, was designated a terrorist by the US in June, ahead of a visit to Washington by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Salahuddin has vowed to continue fighting until India relinquishes control of Kashmir.

Militants kill police officer in Pakistan

PESHAWAR, Pakistan: Pakistani police say militants riding on motorcycles have shot and killed a junior police officer in an attack in the country's northwest, before fleeing. Local police chief Abdul Rahman says yesterday's drive-by shooting took place in the town of Bannu, which is not far away from the troubled North Waziristan tribal region. He says the slain officer was passing through a bazaar on his motorcycle when the assailants targeted him. A Taliban splinter group, Jamaat-ul-Ahrar, claimed responsibility shortly after the attack. Asad Mansoor, the group's spokesman, gave no further details. Pakistan has carried out several military offensives against militants in Bannu and elsewhere in recent years but the violence has continued unabated.

INDIA HEDGES PLEDGE TO EXPEL ROHINGYA MUSLIMS AMID OUTCRY

NEW DELHI: A day after the UN chief voiced concern about Indian plans to potentially deport tens of thousands of Muslim Rohingya refugees, an Indian government official said yesterday that authorities are only working to identify those who fled persecution in neighboring Myanmar - not expel them.

An estimated 40,000 Rohingya Muslims have taken refuge in various parts of India, though fewer than 15,000 are registered with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. Last week, India's Home Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju told lawmakers that state authorities had been asked to identify and deport illegal immigrants, including but not only Rohingyas. A ministry memo sent Aug. 8 to the states warns that immigrants are susceptible to recruitment by "terrorist" organizations and "not only infringe on the rights of Indian citizens but also pose grave security challenges."

Yesterday, a Home Ministry official said worries of Rohingya being shipped back to Myanmar were overblown, and that the government was only trying to count and identify how many refugees were in the country. Contrary to what was said in last week's memo, the official said no decisions had been made about deporting any refugees. He refused to give his name as he was not authorized to speak with media. A day earlier, the head of the United

Nations said any plan to send refugees back to a country where they face persecution was cause for alarm, according to his spokesman. "Obviously, we have our concerns about the treatment of refugees," said Farhan Haq, deputy spokesman for UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres. It was not immediately clear if Rohingyas who had yet to be registered with the UNHCR would receive any of the same protections. The Rohingyas face severe discrimination in Buddhist-majority Myanmar and are the targets of violence in Rakhine state, where security forces have been accused of abuses against them. They have long been denied citizenship, freedom of movement and basic rights in Myanmar.

In recent years, tens of thousands have fled either to neighboring Bangladesh, India and other countries, where they are often seen as illegal immigrants - even those who have lived there for decades. Many who have come to India have settled in areas with large Muslim populations, including the southern city of Hyderabad, the northern state of Uttar Pradesh, the capital of New Delhi and the disputed Himalayan region of Jammu.

Earlier this year, a body of traders and industrialists launched a campaign to "identify and kill" the thousands of Rohingyas settled in Hindu-dominated Jammu.

"We did issue a threat to them. But we didn't execute it, because the government of India promised action against them," said Rakesh Gupta, who heads the body. "The government said they (Rohingyas) would be deported from the state soon, and we accordingly withdrew the threat. But we will review the situation soon." Myanmar's presidential spokesman said the government had yet to receive any official notification of

planned deportations.

"The Indian government had told the Myanmar ambassador about the deportation of the refugees," spokesman Zaw Htay said. "But as to the government, we have not been told directly by the Indian government, and that's why we cannot tell anything yet and the issue is still under discussion." — AP



NEW DELHI: Children of Rohingya refugees attend a temporary school run by a non-governmental organization at a camp for Rohingyas in New Delhi yesterday. — AP

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Focus

BANISH BANNON?
TRUMP HEDGES

For months, US President Donald Trump's national security adviser and his chief strategist have battled for influence behind the scenes, and their feud may force another shake-up at the White House. The dispute between Lieutenant General H. R. McMaster and political strategist Stephen Bannon has reached a level of animosity that is destabilizing Trump's team of top advisers just as the administration tries to regain lost momentum, three senior officials said.

Under pressure from moderate Republicans to fire Bannon, Trump declined to publicly back him on Tuesday, although he left his options open. "We'll see what happens with Mr. Bannon," he told reporters at Trump Tower in New York. Whatever Trump decides could chart the fate of a nuclear-weapons deal with Iran, US troop deployments to Afghanistan and White House staffing decisions - all issues over which Bannon and McMaster have sparred.

Bannon has been in a precarious position before but Trump has opted to keep him, in part because his chief strategist played a major role in his election victory and is backed by many of the president's most loyal rank-and-file supporters. "The president obviously is very nervous and afraid of firing him," a source close to the White House told Reuters. The source floated the possibility that Bannon could be demoted instead of fired, noting that he might turn into a harsh critic of the administration if he is forced out of the inner circle.

Two other senior officials, both supporters of McMaster who asked not to be identified, said he blames Bannon for a series of attacks against him by right-wing website Breitbart News, which Bannon used to lead, and other far-right conservative groups. In recent weeks, Breitbart has published a series of articles making a case for McMaster's ouster on the basis that he is not a strong ally of Israel and that he has staffed the National Security Council with holdovers from the Obama administration.

Jostling

One of the senior officials said McMaster's anger over the campaign "is known to the president" but declined to say whether the national security adviser had told Trump directly or through General John Kelly, an ally and the president's new chief of staff. "McMaster isn't saying Bannon is the mastermind behind the campaign, but he does think Bannon could stop it if he wanted to," said one of McMaster's defenders.

In a television interview on Sunday, McMaster repeatedly declined to answer when asked if he could work with Bannon. About their feud, Bannon declined to comment and McMaster was unavailable for comment. Instead of firing Bannon, Trump could move McMaster into a position outside the White House, possibly back to an active military command role, or keep both men where they are and insist on some form of truce.

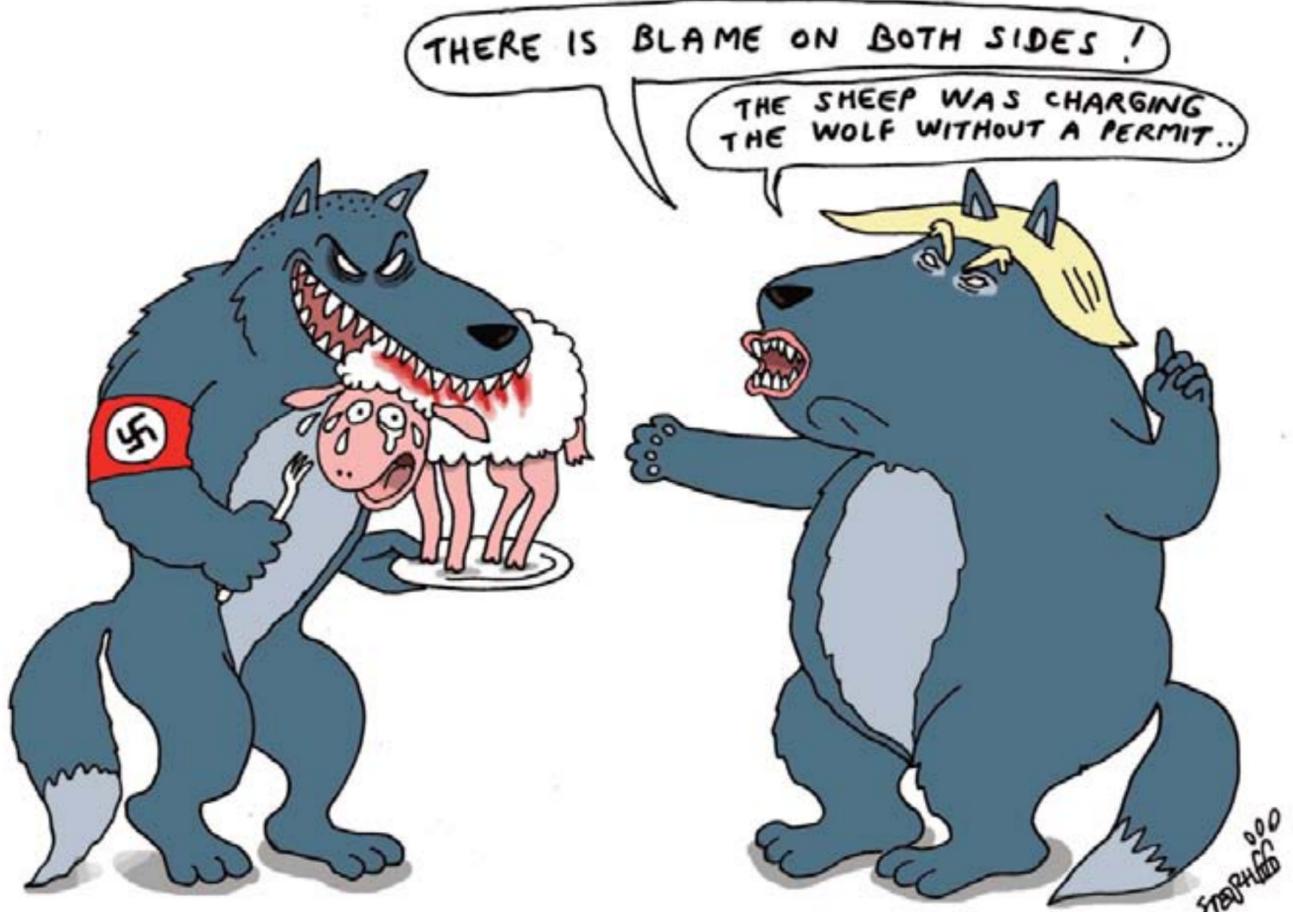
Bannon has survived other White House power struggles this year and established a detente with Trump's son-in-law and senior adviser Jared Kushner after a scolding from the president. The two senior officials who support McMaster said Kelly is angry that the anti-McMaster campaign has made the White House appear chaotic, reflecting badly on him as he was brought in as chief of staff two weeks ago to restore order and discipline.

Bannon sees himself as the defender of Trump's nationalist base and has advocated for both an end or renegotiation of trade deals and a more isolationist approach to foreign affairs than McMaster. He has pushed to scrap the 2015 nuclear-weapons agreement with Iran, which McMaster argues should remain in place, and has also proposed using contractors to fight the war in Afghanistan rather than expanding US forces there, as McMaster has advocated. McMaster is part of a more pragmatic group that Bannon likes to label "globalists." He drew the fury of Bannon's supporters by recently overhauling the White House's National Security Council, pushing out four staffers who were seen as close to Bannon.

Conservative commentator Mike Cernovich is a Bannon ally and has been a vocal critic of McMaster, even leveling personal attacks against him. Cernovich says he does not talk directly to Bannon but praises him as an important counterweight to McMaster. He also warns that the president would alienate his most loyal supporters if he fires Bannon. "I don't think that people who like Trump are suddenly going to say, 'We're going to fight Trump.' Instead they'll say, 'What's the point of supporting him?'" Cernovich told Reuters.

The conservative Jewish-American and pro-Israel group Zionist Organization of America (ZOA), which also has close ties to Bannon, has been one of McMaster's sharpest critics, urging Trump to reassign him away from policy areas dealing with Israel and Iran. Trump has himself backed McMaster, saying he was a "good man and very pro-Israel." — Reuters

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JORDAN WOMEN JAILED IN NAME OF HONOR

In a secret shelter in the Jordanian capital Amman, 52-year-old Fatima runs a hand over the scar that shaped her life. Almost 30 years ago, her father shot her and her sister to "cleanse the family's honor" after her younger sibling got pregnant out of wedlock and he deemed both daughters should pay the price. "When they shot my sister she died," said Fatima, who declined to give her real name for fear of reprisals. "When they started on me, our neighbors informed the police... I remained in hospital for six to seven months, then the police came and put me in prison."

Fatima remained in prison for 22 years under a law that allows the authorities to indefinitely incarcerate women considered to be at risk of being attacked or killed in the name of family honor. "Your life is gone, your youth is gone. Everything you wished for in the world is gone," said Fatima, who now lives alone in a shelter run by a charity. An estimated 65 percent of more than 1,700 female inmates in Jordan's prisons are held under the 60-year-old law, according to the Sisterhood Is Global Institute (SIGI), a women's rights charity.

There are no official figures on honor killings in Jordan but activists estimate at least 42 women were murdered by their relatives in 2016, up 60 percent from the previous year, according to SIGI. Human Rights Watch, the international rights watchdog, says there are typically between 15 and 20 crimes of this nature a year.

No Alternatives

Jordan, which has one of the highest rates of honor killings in the world, has made strides to curb gender-related crime and boost women's rights. Parliament voted this month in favor of abolishing a law that allows rapists to escape punishment by marrying their victim. The penal code was amended in March to no longer allow judges to grant reduced sentences for perpetrators of honor crimes.

"Jordan's customs and traditions differ, but the population has become noticeably more aware, open and understanding about issues related to women," said Basel Tarawneh, government coordinator for human rights. "We are aware of the need for change and are taking the neces-

sary action and revisions will be done on a continuous basis to adapt to the times," said Tarawneh. But women's rights groups call for stronger penalties and to end the practice of imprisoning women at risk of being killed for their own protection.

Their imprisonment is often justified by lack of alternatives, such as safe shelters for abused women. "We haven't created enough protection services and we have not made any effort to change social attitude," said Salma Nims, secretary general of the Jordanian National Commission for Women, a semi-governmental body that promotes women's issues. "So we end up with a government that under the law of stopping crimes to protect women (makes) the victim actually the persecuted," said Nims. ABUSED AND IMPRISONED Many women are imprisoned after weeks or months in hospital following violent attacks by male relatives, activists say.

A 2014 report by Dignity, the Danish Institute Against Torture, described how they blamed themselves and felt "isolated, persecuted and rejected by their own families." Rehab, 32, was detained for seven months in Amman's Jwaideh prison after divorcing her abusive husband. "I went through hell and saw things in Jwaideh that I had never seen before... people throwing themselves down the stairs, breaking the sink to cut their arms, strangling and beating each other," said Rehab, who declined to give her real name for fear of reprisals.

One of the biggest problems for women in protective custody is that they are held with all types of detainees. "A woman who is held for her own protection is in the same cell with a convicted murderer or someone who has actually committed an act of violence," said Adam Coogler, Middle East researcher at Human Rights Watch. "This can lead to a lot of psychological problems and real fear," said Coogler. In her 22 years of detention, Fatima experienced heavy abuse from other female detainees. "When I went inside and they put me in cells with murderers, narcotics, thieves and prostitutes, I no longer knew who I was and what I am," she said.

From Bad to Worse

For the women to be granted a release, governors typi-

cally insist a male family member act as guarantor and sign an order of protection. Often these are the same relatives that threatened the women's lives to begin with, resulting in frequent cases where - despite the signed guarantee - women have been seriously injured or killed after their release, according to Dignity.

Charities like Mizan Law act as a mediator between women in protective custody and their families to ensure women can return home safely. "Families don't prefer to kill, these people are fathers or mothers and they have feelings, and at the end of the day they are still their daughters," said Eva Abu Halaweh, director of Mizan Law. For many of the imprisoned women, marriage is the only path to freedom.

Since it is almost impossible to find husbands while in prison, many are forced to make desperate choices. "There are no guarantees in these marriages, it's an administrative procedure," Nims said. "It's like negotiating the best situation possible for herself and sometimes it ends up being a worse situation than being in the prison itself." Swasan, 26, spent two years in detention after fleeing her abusive father. "A man came to visit me in prison to determine if I was suitable for marriage...the very next day I was transferred to the governor's office and the governor signed my marriage certificate," said Swasan, who declined to give her real name for fear of reprisals.

Four years and two children later, Swasan is anxious to escape her situation. Her husband is an abusive alcoholic and provides her young family with little to live off. "I feel like I don't have options; if I were to get divorced, for example, I have nowhere to turn to. I would end up back in Jwaideh or on the streets."

The government announced a plan last December to open a protection shelter for women at risk, but no building has been opened yet. Although women's rights activists have welcomed the plan, many feel more needs to be done. "It's not just about building a shelter, it's about creating a whole system that believes in the dignity and the right of these women to live a dignified life and the right to be protected," said Nims of the Jordanian National Commission for Women. — Reuters

SADR'S TRIPS SHOW GULF REALPOLITIK

An influential Iraqi Shiite cleric, notorious for his followers' deadly attacks on US troops in Iraq over a decade ago and thought at times to have ties to Iran, has two new stamps in his passport - from the two fiercest Sunni critics of Tehran in the Gulf. Muqtada Al-Sadr's trips to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates come as the two nations want to limit Iran's influence in the wider Middle East, especially with Iranian-backed Shiite militias leading the fight against the Islamic State group on Iraqi battlefields.

Meanwhile, the chameleonic cleric hopes to cement his own standing ahead of Iraq's parliamentary elections next year, part of his makeover from a militia warlord whose fighters battled American forces to an Iraqi nationalist who can fill Baghdad's streets with his protesting followers. How far any possible alliance between Sadr and the Gulf Arab countries could go remains to be seen, though photos of the black-turbaned Shiite cleric meeting with Sunni rulers already has stirred speculation in Iran.

The hardline Iranian newspaper Keyhan warned that if Sadr continued on this path, "his popularity will fall and he will become an isolated person." Such harsh criticism from Iran would have been unthinkable in the years immediately following the 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq. While Sunni Muslims represent the world's principal branch of Islam, Shiites are the majority in Iraq. Neighboring Iran has had a government overseen by Shiite clerics since its 1979 Islamic Revolution. Saddam Hussein's Sunni-dominated government massacred Shiites after the 1991 Gulf War and continued imprisoning, torturing and executing others up to his overthrow.

Sadr, the son of a prominent Shiite cleric assassinated in a 1999 attack believed to be organized by Saddam, quickly organized Shiite dispossessed under Saddam against the American occupation. "The little serpent has left and the great serpent has come," Sadr told CBS News' "60 Minutes" program in 2003. Saddam loyalists and Shiite extremists alike would soon fight an insurgency against the American forces. Sadr's Mahdi Army militia fought American forces throughout much of 2004 in Baghdad and other cities.

Sadr's forces are believed to have later taken part in the sectarian killings between Shiites and Sunnis that plagued Iraq for several years after the bombing of one of the holiest sites in Shiite Islam. Sadr left for Qom, a holy Shiite city in Iran, for religious studies around the time that his forces

accepted a cease-fire in the 2008 battle of Basra, in southern Iraq. Since that time much has changed.

Sadr's followers have taken part in Iraqi military offensives against the Islamic State group in Tikrit and other cities. He has organized rallies against government corruption, including breaching the fortified Green Zone in Baghdad, the highly secure area housing government offices and many foreign embassies. On July 30, Sadr traveled to Saudi Arabia to meet with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the next in line to the throne. The state-run Saudi Press Agency published a photograph of King Salman's son smiling next to the cleric, only saying the two "reviewed the Saudi-Iraqi relations and a number of issues of mutual interest."

In the UAE, Sadr met on Sunday with Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nayhan, Abu Dhabi's powerful crown prince, and other officials. "Experience has taught us to always call for what brings Arabs and Muslims together, and to reject the advocates of division," Sheikh Mohammed said in a statement carried on the state-run WAM news agency.

Anwar Gargash, the Emirati minister of state for foreign affairs, tweeted after the meeting that it was part of an effort to "build bridges" between the Gulf Arab nations and Iraq. "Our ambition is to see a prosperous, stable Arab Iraq," Gargash wrote. "The challenge is great and the prize is bigger." Using "Arab" to describe Iraq is no accident for the UAE, which opposed the 2003 American invasion. Both the UAE and Saudi Arabia want to limit Shiite-ruled Iran's power in Iraq.

"There are serious questions about how to help encourage Iraqi stability and minimize Iranian influence in the country," said Lori Plotkin Boghardt, a former US intelligence official who now is a fellow at The Washington Institute for Near East Policy. "Building ties with someone like Al-Sadr is part of the Saudis' and Emiratis' answer to this."

One of the biggest question marks ahead for Iraq is what happens after the war against the Islamic State group. Shiite militias advised by members of Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard have proved to be among the most effective ground forces in the fight against IS. Disarming or incorporating the groups into existing security forces likely would be a major challenge for the national government.

Sadr, already a respected Shiite cleric with a massive base of followers, demanded in March that Shiite militias disband, saying only Iraqi national forces should hold territory in the country. Though many among the militias disagree, saying they have proven their credentials in battle against IS, Sadr's stand could provide Baghdad with the cover it needs to do so. "This would be, of course, music to the Gulf countries' ears," said Fanar Haddad, a senior research fellow at the Middle East Institute at the National University of Singapore.

For Sadr, whose loyalists represent one of the biggest blocs in Iraq's parliament, his foreign trips burnish his credentials as an Iraqi leader. However, it remains unclear what he wants - and whether any tilt toward the Sunni Gulf countries truly would represent a total break with Iran for the Iraqi nationalist. "It shows he has options," Haddad said. — AP





A man walks by impounded bicycles from various bike-sharing services parked at the compound of the urban administration office of Luyang district in Hefei in central China's Anhui province yesterday. Chinese authorities have issued nationwide guidelines to regulate the bike-sharing services which have boomed but created management issues as millions of bikes clogged the sidewalks in major cities across China. — AP

WITH EYE ON IRAN, SAUDI, IRAQI LEADERS DRAW CLOSER

BAGHDAD/DUBAI: It was an unusual meeting: An Iraqi Shiite cleric openly hostile to the United States sat in a palace sipping juice at the invitation of the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, the Sunni kingdom that is Washington's main ally in the Middle East. For all the implausibility, the motivations for the July 30 gathering in Jeddah between Moqtada Al-Sadr and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman run deep, and center on a shared interest in countering Iranian influence in Iraq.

For Sadr, who has a large following among the poor in Baghdad and southern Iraqi cities, it was part of efforts to bolster his Arab and nationalist image ahead of elections where he faces Shiite rivals close to Iran. For the newly elevated heir to the throne of conservative Saudi Arabia, the meeting, and talks with Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi in June, are an attempt to build alliances with Iraqi Shiite leaders in order to roll back Iranian influence.

"Sadr's visit to Saudi Arabia is a bold shift of his policy to deliver a message to regional, influential Sunni states that not all Shi'ite groups carry the label 'Made in Iran,'" said Baghdad-based analyst Ahmed Younis. This policy has assumed greater prominence now that Islamic State has been driven back in northern Iraq, giving politicians time to focus on domestic issues ahead of provincial council elections in September and a parliamentary vote next year.

"This is both a tactical and strategic move by Sadr. He wants to play the Saudis off against the Iranians, shake down both

sides for money and diplomatic cover," said Ali Khedery, who was a special assistant to five US ambassadors in Iraq.

'Necessary Evil'

Ultimately, Sadr seeks a leadership role in Iraq that would allow him to shape events without becoming embroiled in daily administration, which could erode his popularity, diplomats and analysts say. Such a role - religious guide and political kingmaker - would fit with the patriarchal status the Sadr religious dynasty has for many Shi'ite Arabs in Iraq, Lebanon, Kuwait and Bahrain. Days after the Jeddah meeting, Sadr met Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahayan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, who has also taken an assertive line against Tehran, the dominant foreign power in Iraq since the 2003 US invasion ended Sunni minority rule.

Iran has since increased its regional influence, with its forces and allied militias spearheading the fight against Islamic State in Iraq and Syria and holding sway in Baghdad. For Saudi Arabia, which sees itself as the bastion of Sunni Islam, less Iranian influence in Iraq would be a big win in a rivalry that underpins conflict across the Middle East. "There are plans to secure peace and reject sectarianism in the region," Sadr told the Saudi-owned Asharq al-Awsat newspaper last week, and it was "necessary to bring Iraq back into the Arab fold".

Washington supports the Saudi-Iraq rapprochement, but the embracing of Sadr raises questions about whether it sees a

man known for his anti-Americanism as a reliable figure. "It is perhaps close to a necessary evil," a US official said of the visit, although it was a "very uncomfortable position for us to be in" due to the Sadr's anti-Americanism, which had led to the deaths of US citizens. "His visits to the region, and broadly the high profile visits by Iraq, those things broadly are good, in that they get Iraq facing the Gulf nations and they help to turn their attention away from Iran," the official said.

Limited Influence

A politician close to Sadr said the Jeddah meeting was aimed at building confidence and toning down sectarian rhetoric between the two countries. The rapprochement is "a careful testing of the waters with the Abadi government and some of the Shia centres of influence like Sadr and, the interior minister," said Ali Shihabi, Executive Director of the Washington-based Arabia Foundation. How far detente can go is unclear: Iran has huge political, military and economic influence in Iraq. Saudi Arabia is playing catch-up, having reopened an embassy in Baghdad only in 2015 after a 25-year break caused by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Whatever the Saudis and Gulf states do, "Iran will stay the key player in Iraq for at least the next 10 years," said Wathiq Al-Hashimi, chairman of the Iraqi Group for Strategic Studies think-tank. Khedery said Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf states were not skilled at exerting external influence.

"They usually just throw money at issues and the beneficiaries of that largesse become very, very wealthy and that's it," he said. The Iranians in Iraq offered intelligence, diplomatic support and cash and wielded "big sticks" against anyone stepping out of line, he said.

Still, the Jeddah meeting has produced practical results. Sadr's office said there was an agreement to study investment in Shiite regions of southern Iraq. Riyadh will also consider opening a consulate in Iraq's holy Shiite city of Najaf, Sadr's base. Saudi Arabia would donate \$10 million to help Iraqis displaced by the war on Islamic State in Iraq, Sadr said, while Iraq's oil minister said Riyadh had discussed building hospitals in Basra and Baghdad.

After the Saudi trip, Sadr again urged the Iraqi government to dismantle the Tehran-backed Shi'ite paramilitary groups involved in the fight against Islamic State - a theme that is expected to become a top election issue. A source from Sadr's armed group told Reuters that after the visit orders were issued to remove anti-Saudi banners from its headquarters, vehicles and streets.

Sadr had called on the Saudis to "stop hostile speeches by fanatical hardline clerics who describe Shiites as infidels," and Crown Prince Mohammed had promised efforts towards this, the politician close to Sadr said. It remains to be seen how far Saudi Arabia can prevent anti-Shiite outbursts by its media or on social media, since Wahhabism, the kingdom's official ultra-conservative Sunni Muslim school, regards

Shiism as heretical. But Saudi minister of state for Gulf affairs Thamer Al-Subhan called for tolerance after greeting Sadr, using Twitter to decry "Sunni extremism and Shiite extremism". Saudi Arabia this week cracked down on Twitter users including a radical Sunni cleric who had published insulting comments about Shiites.

Wider Rapprochement

As part of the wider detente, Iraq and Saudi Arabia announced last month they are setting up a council to upgrade strategic relations. The Saudi cabinet has approved a joint trade commission to look at investment while a Saudi daily reported the countries planned to reopen a border crossing shut for more than 25 years - a point raised by Sadr on his visit.

Another sign of rapprochement is an agreement to increase direct flights to a daily basis. Iraqi Airways hopes to reopen offices in Saudi airports to help Iraqis travel to the kingdom, especially for pilgrimages, Iraq's transport ministry said.

Then there is coordination on energy policy. As OPEC producers, the two cooperated in November to support oil prices. Their energy ministers discussed bilateral cooperation and investment last week. Iranian reaction to the meetings has been minimal. "Iraqi personalities and officials do not need our permission to travel outside of Iraq or to report to us," foreign ministry spokesman Bahram Qasemi said last week, according to the semi-official Fars news agency. — Reuters

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DORTMUND'S SCHUERLE OUT FOR A MONTH WITH INJURY

BERLIN: World Cup-winner Andre Schuerle is set to miss the first four weeks of the new season after tearing his thigh muscle, Borussia Dortmund confirmed yesterday. His latest setback means Schuerle will miss Dortmund's trip to Wolfsburg on Saturday in their opening league match of the new season. The 26-year-old has been dogged by injury since joining Dortmund in July 2016 for 30 million euros (\$35.2m) from Wolfsburg. He was signed to much fanfare but struggled for form last season, managing just two goals and three assists in 15 Bundesliga games. The highlight was his equaliser in Borussia's 2-2 draw with Real Madrid in the group stages of the Champions League. Last Saturday, Schuerle played in Dortmund's 4-0 German Cup win at minnows Rielasingen-Arlen, who play in the sixth tier of German football, but his torn thigh means he is out until mid-September at the earliest. New signing Maximilian Philipp, who Dortmund bought from Freiburg for 20 million euros in July, looks set to replace Schuerle, whose cross Mario Goetze converted to score the winning goal for Germany in the 2014 World Cup final. —AFP



HARTLEY TELLS TUILAGI, SOLOMONA TO MAKE AMENDS

LONDON: England captain Dylan Hartley has told Manu Tuilagi and Denny Solomon to prove they are worthy of a recall after being sent home early from a pre-season training camp. Hartley said Leicester centre Tuilagi and Sale wing Solomon "let us down" when they broke England's code of conduct in an incident reported to have been alcohol related. Tuilagi and Solomon were dismissed from training by England coach Eddie Jones on August 7 and their Test careers are now in jeopardy. But Hartley believes both players can still earn an international recall if they buckle down. "We're a team and as a team we set our own standards off the field. And ultimately those guys let us down in that area," Hartley said. "We're a team and we've got a code of conduct that we adhere to. The team dealt with it and I'm sure those players will have their heads down and be working hard now to get back in the picture. It's unfortunate for them, but you make decisions, you've got to live with those decisions." —AFP

NEWCASTLE SIGN SPANISH STRIKER JOSELU FROM STOKE

LONDON: Rafael Benitez's frustration at missing out on several transfer targets abated a little as Spanish striker Joselu yesterday agreed a move to Newcastle United from Stoke City. The 27-year-old, who scored just four times for Stoke in 27 appearances, cost Newcastle a reported £5 million (5.4m euros, \$6.4m) and signed a three year contract. "I feel very happy because I have signed for a very big club," he told the club website. "I'm very happy to be part of this club, and so excited. I'm looking forward to getting to know my team-mates, the city, the training ground, the stadium and all the supporters," added Joselu, who spent last season on loan with Deportivo La Coruna. Joselu, who will compete with Dwight Gayle and Aleksandar Mitrovic for a place up front, is Benitez's sixth summer signing but the former Liverpool manager has expressed his frustration at missing out on other targets such as Arsenal's misfiring Spaniard Lucas Perez. —AFP



CHARLOTTE: Rickie Fowler watches his tee shot on the third hole during the third round of the PGA Championship golf tournament at the Quail Hollow Club, in Charlotte. —AP

LEAVE PETTERSEN ALONE, US SKIPPER URGES FANS

CHICAGO: United States captain Juli Inkster on Tuesday urged fans not to heckle Europe star Suzann Pettersen at this week's Solheim Cup, two years after a bitter controversy involving the Norwegian player.

Pettersen was at the centre of an acrimonious spat at the 2015 edition of the Ryder Cup-style event when she refused to give Alison Lee a short putt during a crucial foursomes game.

The Norwegian's controversial move left Lee in tears and stoked a furious backlash from American players, who subsequently overturned a 10-6 deficit heading into the singles to claim victory.

Pettersen initially insisted she had not done anything wrong but later issued an apology declaring that she was "gutted and truly sad" about her actions.

"I am so sorry for not thinking about the bigger picture in the heat of the battle and competition," said Pettersen, the current world number 23 who will be playing in her ninth Solheim Cup this weekend.

It remains to be seen whether galleries at Des Moines Golf and Country Club in Iowa will give Pettersen a pass for her 2015 actions.

But US captain Inkster is among those hoping the controversy of two years ago will be forgotten.

"I really don't think it's going to be a big deal," Inkster said Tuesday. "It won't be on our side and not on her side."

"I hope they (the fans) don't heckle her, I hope they respect her and respect her play. It was two years ago and we've moved on. I think she's moved on as well."

Inkster however said the tournament rules committee had instructed teams to designate one player in each pairing who had responsibility to concede putts in order to avoid the sort of scenes that erupted in 2015.

"I think the rules committee are going to do that. You've got to have one person in the group who's in charge of giving putts. And that way we don't have any controversy," Inkster said.

Inkster, who was critical of Pettersen's actions at the time, said she had spoken to the player in the immediate aftermath of the row and was confident the matter was now closed.

"I spoke with her on the Monday morning after the Sunday. We had a nice chat. I haven't brought it up since and she hasn't either," she said.

"It's over with, it's done. Our team's not talking about it, I'm sure the European team's not talking about it, I'm not sure why we're talking about it." Opening foursomes in the tournament get under way tomorrow. —AFP

GOLF

FOWLER KEEPS CELEBRATING EVERYONE ELSE'S MAJORS

CHARLOTTE: Rickie Fowler, golf's version of an action hero, keeps showing up too late to save himself at the majors. His final six holes at the PGA Championship were nothing short of remarkable, the very reason why Fowler should remain in the category of "when" and not "if" as it relates to winning a major.

Seemingly out of contention, Fowler holed a 20-foot birdie putt on No. 12 (one of only four birdies in the final round) and hit his tee shot on the 13th to 8 feet for another birdie. He drove the 14th green to 40 feet for a two-putt birdie, then nearly holed a chip on the par-5 15th for a fourth straight birdie.

That whipped social media, along with practically all of Quail Hollow, into a frenzy because everyone loves Fowler and he loves them back. But he ran out of holes. Fowler figured he would need two more birdies, and that nasty three-hole stretch known as the "Green Mile" didn't give any player more than one in the final round. He still managed to keep slim hopes alive by making a pair of 8-foot par putts that he couldn't afford to miss. Heroic stuff.

GOOD STEP

Still, the closest he came to the Wanamaker Trophy was when he posed for a picture with its new owner, Justin Thomas, a good friend who lives down the street from him in Florida. Fowler also waited behind a year ago to see Jimmy Walker polish off victory at Baltusrol to win the same trophy. And he was at the 18th green a month ago at Royal Birkdale to see Jordan Spieth clutch the claret jug.

Asked to assess this year in the majors, Fowler wrapped it up with three sentences: "Nice coming off last year. Made all the cuts. That's a good step." It was a baby step com-

pared with his colleagues', many of them younger, all of them in full stride.

Compared with his own standard, it was a step to the side at best, but certainly not forward. Three years ago, Fowler joined Jack Nicklaus and Tiger Woods as the only players to finish in the top 5 at all four majors (Spieth has since joined them). The difference is the other three all won a major in those years.

Fowler is still 28. He has played only 30 majors as a pro. The talent is there, and so is the ability to deliver big moments. He showed that when he won The Players Championship in 2015 and the Scottish Open later that summer.

Phil Mickelson, now with five majors and three legs of the career Grand Slam, had a comparable major championship record to Fowler at that age. In his first 30 majors as a pro, Mickelson had three veritable chances to win. He was one shot out of the lead at Shinnecock Hills in the 1995 US Open, had the 36-hole lead at Valhalla in the 1996 PGA Championship and lost to a 15-foot putt by Payne Stewart at Pinehurst No. 2 in the 1999 US Open.

The knock on Mickelson shouldn't have been that he had not won a major by then, but that with all his talent he didn't give himself enough chances. After eight full years on the PGA Tour, Mickelson already had 16 victories.

SENTIMENTAL CHOICE

Fowler is wrapping up his eighth full year and has four PGA Tour titles. He also has seven top 5s in the majors, though he has shown a bad habit of starting slowly, whether it was the Masters and British Open in 2014 or the Masters and the US Open this year. His best chance was in the 2014 PGA Championship at Valhalla, where he made only one mistake on the back nine and

had a long eagle putt on the final hole that would have forced a playoff.

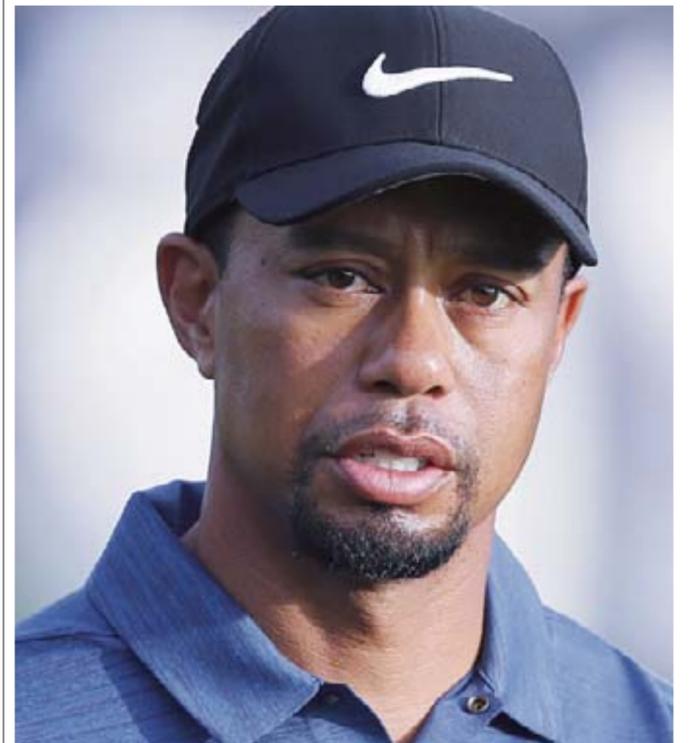
Fowler should be too young to be considered the best without a major except that four players younger than him already have at least one - Spieth, Thomas, Rory McIlroy and Brooks Koepka. At worst, he has become a sentimental choice because of the growing number of chances and the gracious manner he treats people.

Maybe the time spent celebrating everyone else's majors will pay off. "You can learn so much from watching your friends play well and get the job done," Fowler said. "It's fun to see. It also motivates you to want to go out and push yourself to another level."

The old guard might question Fowler's fire by his willingness to smile and celebrate majors he wants for himself. That's simply the way he was brought up. "We always kept everything positive," his father once said. "Even if he hit a bad shot, we only talk about the good shots that he hit. We never brought up any negative talk. He knew if he hit a bad shot. We didn't need to say anything."

The skill is there. Only Fowler knows how much he feels the sting of watching others claim majors. His greatest asset going forward might be a positive attitude, something Sergio Garcia was missing for so many years before he finally won the Masters.

The best example was at Erin Hills, when Fowler started the final round of the U.S. Open two shots out of the lead and faded from view. He was asked that afternoon about the disappointment of not winning his first major. "If you look at the negatives too much," he said, "you're going to be stuck doing that the whole time." —AP



Tiger Woods

WOODS HAD MARIJUANA IN SYSTEM AT ARREST

FORT LAUDERDALE: Tiger Woods had the active ingredient for marijuana, two painkillers and two sleep drugs in his system when he was arrested on a DUI charge earlier this year, a report released Tuesday by police said.

Police in Jupiter, Florida, released the report less than a week after the golf superstar agreed to enter a diversion program to settle his driving while intoxicated charges. The report's contents were first reported Monday by ESPN.

The report, prepared by the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, says Woods, 41, had THC, the active ingredient for marijuana; as well as the painkillers Vicodin and Dilaudid; the anxiety and sleep drug Xanax; and the anti-insomnia drug Ambien in his system when he was arrested at 2 a.m. May 29 about 15 miles from his home in Jupiter. Officers had found him unconscious in his Mercedes-Benz, which was parked awkwardly on the side of the road and had damage to the driver's side. It's not clear how he damaged the car. Officers checked the area but didn't find that he had hit anything.

Woods issued a statement Tuesday saying he had been trying on his own to treat his insomnia and pain from his fourth back surgery, which he underwent in April. He did not specifically address the marijuana issue. None was found in his possession.

"I realize now it was a mistake to do this

without medical assistance," said Woods, who completed an out-of-state drug treatment program last month. "I am continuing to work with my doctors, and they feel I've made significant progress."

Woods is scheduled to plead guilty to reckless driving Oct. 25 and enter the county's diversion program. Under the plea deal, prosecutors would drop the DUI charge, which is a more severe charge than reckless driving. In the diversion program, Woods will spend a year on probation and pay a \$250 fine and court costs. He would also have to attend DUI school, perform 50 hours of community service and attend a workshop where victims of impaired drivers detail how their lives were damaged. Since the program began four years ago, almost 2,400 defendants have enrolled, according to the Palm Beach County State Attorney's Office.

If Woods completes the program, he can ask a judge to expunge the reckless driving conviction. His 79 PGA Tour victories and 14 major titles both rank No. 2 all-time. He has not competed since February because of his back injury and is not expected to return this year. His last win was in August 2013.

Woods said his back is improving. "I recently spoke to my surgeon and he's very pleased with how my fusion is healing. I'm right on schedule. I'm now doing some light lifting, riding a stationary bike and putting a little," he said. —AP

NFL

GOODSELL TALKS ANTHEM PROTEST, URGES OUTREACH

LOS ANGELES: National Football League chief Roger Goodell has encouraged players to engage in community outreach in the wake of fresh protests against the national anthem during pre-season games.

Goodell told an Arizona Cardinals fan forum on Monday that while it was important to embrace different viewpoints, there was a "time and a place" to speak out.

The NFL Commissioner's remarks came after Seattle Seahawks player Michael Bennett sat through a rendition of the Star Spangled Banner on

Sunday to raise awareness of racism and intolerance.

Bennett's protest followed an identical snub by Oakland Raiders running back Marshawn Lynch, who also remained seated during the anthem at a preseason game against Arizona.

It came amid nationwide soul-searching following violent clashes in Virginia on Saturday linked to a demonstration by white nationalists, neo-Nazis and Ku Klux Klan members.

Goodell suggested he would prefer players to engage in community

programs rather than protest the anthem. "I think it's one of those things where I think we have to understand that there are people with different viewpoints," Goodell said. "It's something that I think everybody wants. The national anthem is a special moment to me. It's a point of pride. That is a really important moment."

"But we also have to understand the other side that people do have rights and we want to respect those. But I was with the Jets a few weeks ago and one of the players was there

in the fan forum actually and we were talking about this and they were asked the same question. And they said you know, there's a time and a place."

"And that's what we all have to sort of understand. The responsibility of doing it at the right time and in the right way. And what we see is a lot of players going into the community and really taking the platform they have and being active and creating dialogue and actually making really positive change. And that's what I think is so important." —AFP

ZVEREV SEEKING STRONG START IN BID FOR ATP HAT TRICK

CINCINNATI: He's the hottest man in tennis after winning trophies at Montreal and Washington this month, but Alexander Zverev would like to escape his opening round without a scare for once.

The 20-year-old German, a career-best seventh in this week's ATP rankings, could complete a hat trick of titles this week at Cincinnati in the last major tuneup for the US Open, which starts August 28 in New York.

But his first matches have been nail-biters in both championship runs, Australia's Jordan Thompson falling 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7/5) at Washington and France's Richard Gasquet squandering three match points in losing 6-3, 4-6 7-6 (7/3) at Montreal.

"I won both first rounds in Montreal

and Washington 7-6 in the third and then after that I haven't lost a set in the whole tournament," Zverev said Tuesday. "I think winning those kinds of matches helps as well. That gives you a lot of confidence for the next few rounds."

Zverev has captured five titles this year, taking Montpellier and Rome after being pushed to three sets in openers and Munich after dropping the first set but winning two tie-breakers in his second match against countryman Jan-Lennard Struff. "I feel well on the court," Zverev said. "I feel very confident."

Zverev, who had a first-round bye, opens Wednesday against 19-year-old American Frances Tiafoe, a second-round loser in straight sets to Zverev this year at Wimbledon and the

Australian Open in their only career ATP meetings.

Due to injuries and withdrawals, the only player ranked above Zverev in the field is Spain's Rafael Nadal, who takes over the world number one spot next week from Britain's Andy Murray, out with a hip injury.

Coming off his best Grand Slam run into the fourth round at Wimbledon, Zverev looks ready to make a deep run on the US Open hardcourts.

"I don't put pressure on myself, but obviously I want to do well there," he said. "I know I'm in a position to do so. I just won back-to-back weeks with one Masters event in it so I know I can maybe have a good US Open." Zverev says better conditioning is the secret behind his rise in the past year.

"Physically I improved a lot. My serve improved and my returns improved. But all small things," he said. "In general, my game has become quicker and faster, but that's a lot to do with the physical part."

ZVEREV PAIRS WITH PAES

Zverev paired Tuesday with 44-year-old Indian doubles legend Leander Paes and lost to Spain's Feliciano and Marc Lopez 2-6, 7-6 (7/2), 10-6, in a jam-packed outer stadium match.

"He needs someone very high ranked to get in those tournaments. He asked me if I can help him out, I'm like, yeah, sure," Zverev said. "I know him quite well. He's a good guy. Unfortunately we lost, but it was fun." Zverev said his doubles appearances

will be "not very often."

What he will do often is play Brazil's Marcelo Melo in FIFA '17 video games during lulls. "I think winning in FIFA in the evenings is way important for me, just because mentally that helps me way more than winning Masters. Who cares about that, really?" Zverev said with a smile to a question from Melo.

Zverev claims to overcome huge edges for Melo in team selection, he taking underdogs while the South American grabs the likes of Barcelona, Real Madrid, Bayern Munich or Manchester United.

"We play completely random," Zverev said. "Most of the time he gets something like a five-star team and I get an Arabic team which has one star. And I still beat him." — AFP

EXPECTANT SERENA AIMS FOR AUSTRALIAN OPEN COMEBACK

LOS ANGELES: Serena Williams, feeling "new power" from her pregnancy, is already preparing for an Australian Open title defense in January.

In a wide-ranging interview with Vogue touching on motherhood, body image and race, Williams said she had set herself a goal of playing Melbourne.

"It's the most outrageous plan," the 36-year-old Williams, who is expecting her first child next month. "I just want to put that out there. That's, like, three months after I give birth. I'm not walking anything back, but I'm just saying it's pretty intense."

Williams said during her pregnancy lay-off she had kept a close eye on the tennis world, including her sister Venus's run to the Wimbledon final. And she has her eye on matching Margaret Court's all-time record of 24 Grand Slam titles. She was already pregnant when she won her 23rd at the Australian Open last January.

"Obviously, if I have a chance to go out there and catch up with Margaret, I am not going to pass that up," Williams said. "If any-

thing, this pregnancy has given me a new power." Williams says she's had a "love-hate relationship with the idea of power" as it relates to her game, sometimes irked that her skill and strategy seemed to be overlooked. "As I've gotten older I've started to feel differently about it. Power is beauty. Strength is beauty. So now on the court I want people to think that I'm powerful," she said. But she's dismayed to think that many interpret her on-court determination as "mean" — something she believes has to do with race.

"I feel like people think I'm mean," she says. "Really tough and really mean and really strong. I believe that the other girls in the locker room will say, 'Serena's really nice.' But Maria Sharapova, who might not talk to anybody, might be perceived by the public as nicer. Why is that? Because I'm black and so I look mean? That's the society we live in. That's life. They say African-Americans have to be twice as good, especially women. I'm perfectly OK with having to be twice as good." — AFP

'AUNT' VENUS PREPARING FOR SERENA'S BABY AND US OPEN

CINCINNATI: Wimbledon and Australian Open runner-up Venus Williams is preparing this week for the US Open and to become a new aunt with sister Serena giving birth to a baby soon.

Ninth-ranked Venus advanced Tuesday to the second round at the WTA Cincinnati Open by eliminating US compatriot Alison Riske 6-2, 6-0 in 66 minutes.

But off the court, she's doing some online shopping for Serena's baby, and getting some valuable advice from her mother, Oracene Price, who has raised five daughters. "I have a lot of things in my cart that I'm about to order," Venus Williams said. "I talked to my mom yesterday. I'm like, 'Mom, what do you really, really need?' So she really gave me the low-down." "So I'm going to get this stuff and as things progress I'll see what I need after." Serena and her fiancée, Reddit co-founder Alexis Ohanian, have said they plan to keep the sex of the baby a surprise until birth.

Serena, 35, was pregnant when she beat Venus, 37, in an Australian Open final that was more all-Williams than either knew, winning a 23rd career Grand Slam singles crown, one shy of Margaret Court's all-time record. In April, Serena revealed on social media that she was pregnant. She is expected to give birth in about another month. With Serena sidelined, seven-time

Grand Slam winner Venus has picked up the family mantle and turned back the clock, making a run to the Wimbledon final last month, losing to Spain's Garbine Muguruza in a bid for her first Slam crown since 2008.

Venus, who won five Wimbledon and two US Open titles, has been an aunt before, but not when she was old enough to do some serious spoiling and spending on the new arrival.

"This is the first time I've been an aunt as an adult," she said. "So it's a completely different experience than before when I was a child." After a third-round exit in Toronto last week, Williams hopes to put the final fine tuning on her game this week ahead of the year's final Grand Slam that begins August 28 in New York.

"I just want to play free and feel confident. That's important," Williams said. "I need to play my best at all the big events."

"Today was about being measured and being patient and trying to just capitalize on the match."

Williams, who won her 49th career WTA singles crown last year at Kaohsiung, said she doesn't feel pressure to win the title this week. "Not really, but I want to (feel that pressure)," she said. "I want to win every match. The aim is to get out there and be better every single time." — AFP



WASHINGTON: File photo shows Alexander Zverev, of Germany, returns the ball during the finals of the Citi Open tennis tournament against Kevin Anderson, of South Africa, in Washington. — AP

TENNIS

ISNER LEAPS INTO ZVEREV'S PATH AT INJURY-HIT CINCINNATI

CINCINNATI: In a week where most ATP stars are idled by injuries, the two men with multiple titles since Wimbledon — John Isner and Alexander Zverev — are on a collision course.

Isner fired 16 aces and needed only 56 minutes Tuesday to dispatch fellow American Tommy Paul 6-3, 6-3 and reach the third round at the ATP and WTA Cincinnati Open. "I played a good match and I'm happy to get off the court in under an hour," Isner said. "When I had break point, I got after it, put good returns on the court and played aggressively." World number 19 Isner, who won titles last month at Newport and Atlanta, could next face Zverev, who has taken titles the past two weeks at Montreal and Washington, although the 20-year-old German must get past US teen Frances Tiafoe yesterday. "If I do play him, it will be a huge challenge. For me, he's definitely the guy to beat right now on tour," Isner said. "If I do play him, I'll be very much looking forward to that and definitely think I can give him a good tussle."

Spanish top seed Rafael Nadal, the 15-time Grand Slam champion who returns to world number one next week after a three-year absence, faces France's Richard Gasquet in his opener Wednesday after a bye. World number 10 Milos Raonic of Canada withdrew Tuesday with a left wrist injury, leaving only three of the top 10 in the men's field.

Also among the missing are Roger Federer (back), British world number one Andy Murray (hip), Novak Djokovic (elbow), Stan Wawrinka (knee), Kei Nishikori (right wrist) and Marin Cilic (adductor). That offers an enticing chance for those who have never won so large a title, even with Zverev and Nadal still in. "It's an opportunity for a lot of players," Isner said. "I think (Zverev) recognizes that as well. I think he has looked at the draw and seen that Roger is out and Milos is out. So I think his eyes are kind of popped wide open again. He's looking for another one."

MUGURUZA ADVANCES

On the women's side, Wimbledon winner Garbine Muguruza and second-ranked Simona Halep cruised into the third round. Romania's Halep, hoping to overtake Czech Karolina Pliskova for the world number one ranking this week, downed US qualifier Taylor Townsend 6-4, 6-1, while Spain's sixth-ranked Muguruza ousted Brazil's Beatriz Haddad Maia 6-2, 6-0.

"I'm happy to be into the third round," Muguruza said. After trading four service breaks in the first six games, Halep took 11 of the last 12 to dispatch Townsend in 66 minutes.

US ninth seed Venus Williams downed compatriot Alison Riske 6-2, 6-0 to book a second-round match with Australian qualifier Ashleigh Barty. French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko of Latvia was ousted by Serbian qualifier Aleksandra Krunic 6-4, 6-2 while Russian lucky loser Natalia Vikhlyantseva beat Croatia's Donna Vekic 6-3, 2-6, 6-3 to book a matchup with Czech women's world number one Karolina Pliskova.

Argentina's Juan Martin del Potro, the 2009 US Open champion, hit 17 aces in defeating Czech 10th seed Tomas Berdych 3-6, 7-6 (7/1), 6-0 while Japan's Yuichi Sugita took advantage of 43 unforced errors by Jack Sock to out the US 13th seed 7-5, 6-4. Those results left Bulgaria's 11th-ranked Grigor Dimitrov as the only seed in his quarter of the draw. — AFP

KASPAROV SUFFERS FIRST LOSS IN COMEBACK EVENT

ST LOUIS: Chess legend Garry Kasparov on Tuesday suffered the first loss of his brief but highly anticipated comeback to the game, succumbing to fellow Russian Ian Nepomniachtchi and bringing his draw total to five. After three draws on Monday, the 54-year-old former world champion — who dominated the game from 1985 to 2000 — had hoped to play "more aggressive" chess on day two of the Rapid and Blitz tournament in St Louis. But after drawing his first game Tuesday with Armenian world number four Levon Aronian, a contest that featured some gutsy moves from Kasparov and a few trademark death stares, he could not hold on against Nepomniachtchi.

At the day's close Kasparov drew once more after going up against Viswanathan Anand of India, another "former" competitor and the only one present to have played against Kasparov when he ran the global chessboard.

"I haven't played serious chess in 12 years, & haven't missed as many opportunities as I did today in 15! Hoping to steady the ship tomorrow!" tweeted Kasparov at the end of the day. "I was too democratic today. I made quite a few good moves, but spread them evenly among all three games instead of con-

centrating them!" After his loss Kasparov's fans, all hoping to see the brilliance that characterized his long career, said they were disappointed but still hopeful. "It had to happen. But he is doing pretty well for a comeback against these new players," said one fan, 42-year-old former world champion Tracy Stewart. "He hasn't been offensive enough." Kasparov, who left the game in order to pursue a career in politics, will need some wins if he wants to move up in the tournament rankings — he started Tuesday in 7th position out of 10.

Victories would give his comeback some symbolic power — Kasparov would be seen as passing the torch to a new generation, albeit a generation still spellbound by his talent.

But those more youthful players seem determined to knock Kasparov from his pedestal. On Tuesday neither his risks nor his intimidating glowering looks paid off.

American grandmaster Robert Hess had predicted a "tough day," saying that "every opponent is extremely strong, so Garry will certainly need to bring his A game if he is going to try to score some victories."

Though the winner's purse in St Louis is a not-too-shabby \$150,000, Kasparov said he would donate any winnings to promote chess in Africa. — AFP



Venus Williams



ST LOUIS: Grandmaster chess player Garry Kasparov contemplates his move during a match against fellow grandmaster Levon Aronian on day two of the Grand Chess Tour at the Chess Club and Scholastic Center in St Louis on Tuesday. Kasparov and other chess grandmasters are in St. Louis to compete in the Grand Chess Tour. Kasparov was World Champion for decades. — AFP

SHIELD JUST THE START FOR TIGERS, SAYS MOORS

LONDON: Castleford could clinch the Super League Leaders' Shield today if they avoid defeat against Wakefield, but Junior Moors insists the only priority for the Tigers is to prove they can win tight games. The League Leaders' Shield would be the first Super League success in Castleford's history.

Samoan international Moors, who could make his return from a knee injury, has enjoyed the way Daryl Powell's side have performed.

But he is desperate for them to kick on and show they can win the Super

League Grand Final as well, by closing out games against the best teams.

"We have knocked some teams off the park this year but we know that when it comes to the big games it's going to be much tighter. We have to be ready for that," Moors said.

"Everyone is excited about the possibility of what could happen on Thursday and it's all about getting ready for the game. I'm pretty much back to full fitness so I'll be ready to go if called upon. It's been a bit frustrating but I'm coming back more or less on schedule. This was

the game we had singled out so it's gone okay overall."

It won't be easy for Castleford today with Wakefield currently fourth after they thumped Leeds last weekend.

Leeds will have the chance to put things right after that loss to Wakefield when they host St Helens tomorrow, knowing victory would take them a big step closer to the semi-finals.

However Saints forward Zeb Taia, who arrived from the Gold Coast Titans this season, is backing his team to beat the Rhinos who currently sit second.

"I believe Leeds are one of the best sides in the competition and we will certainly not be taking them lightly," Taia said. "They are a dangerous outfit but if we turn up with the right attitude and the right game plan, I'm confident we can come away with a win."

Hull can also boost their semi-final hopes at home to eighth-placed Huddersfield on Friday, while their Challenge Cup opponents Wigan host Salford in a must-win game for both teams. Meanwhile, Leigh have brought in Keiron Cunningham as their new

head of rugby in a bid to avoid relegation. Cunningham, who left Saints earlier this season, will work alongside head coach Neil Jukes, with the side heading to France to take on Catalan Dragons in a crucial game on Saturday.

"I have not come in to take anyone's place, but to add my knowledge and experience at this stage of the season. I get on well with Neil and he is a good friend," he said.

"Derek has brought me in to ease the burden on Neil and bring my experience to Leigh." — AFP



TEXAS: Texas Rangers' Elvis Andrus (1) dives safely back to first ahead of the tag of Detroit Tigers first baseman Miguel Cabrera (24) on a pick-off attempt in the eighth inning of a baseball game, Tuesday, in Arlington, Texas. Texas won 10-4.— AP

BASEBALL

STANTON HOMERS IN 6TH STRAIGHT, MARLINS FALL TO GIANTS

MIAMI: Giancarlo Stanton homered in his sixth consecutive game to give him a major league-leading 44, but the Miami Marlins fell 9-4 to the San Francisco Giants on Tuesday night. Stanton hit a solo shot to deep left-center field off Madison Bumgarner (3-5) in the third inning, tying the game at 2. He has 11 homers in his past 12 games, and 23 in the past 35. Only Sammy Sosa (25 in 1998) and Barry Bonds (24 in 2001) have hit more in that span, according to Elias. He is two games from tying the major league record of hitting a home run in eight straight set by Dale Long (1956), Don Mattingly (1987), and Ken Griffey Jr. (1993). Stanton will look to make it seven straight on Wednesday in the series finale. The Giants will start right-hander Matt Cain. Stanton has four home runs in 22 at-bats against Cain.

DODGERS 6, WHITE SOX 1

Joc Pederson got hit by a pitch with the bases loaded to force in the go-ahead run in a five-run eighth inning that lifted Los Angeles over Chicago. The victory pushed the major league-leading Dodgers (84-34) to a whopping 50 games above .500. Pederson was hit in the right thigh by a pitch from Jake Petricka, forcing home Yasmani Grandal with two outs and opening the floodgates for a Dodgers offense that had been stifled most of the game. Pinch-hitter Austin Barnes and Corey Seager each added a two-run single. Brandon Morrow (5-0) worked an inning of scoreless relief. Juan Minaya (1-1) took the loss. Tim Anderson homered on the first pitch of the game from Alex Wood, who went seven innings. The left-hander remained 14-1. Chicago has lost six straight road games and 10 of its last 11.

RED SOX 10, CARDINALS 4

Xander Bogaerts had three hits, Hanley

Ramirez, Sandy Leon and Jackie Bradley Jr. all added two RBIs and Boston beat St. Louis. Boston blew the game open courtesy of a wild fifth inning, tallying eight hits and eight runs against Cardinals starter Mike Leake and reliever Matt Bowman. It came an inning after the Red Sox turned their first triple play in six years. The Red Sox have won 11 of their past 13. Rick Porcello (7-14) was mostly able to cruise, giving up eight hits and three runs over seven innings to pick up the victory. He has won his past three starts after going winless for more than a month. Leake (7-11) took the loss and has failed to win in his past four starts.

NATIONALS 3, ANGELS 1

Gio Gonzalez allowed two hits in six scoreless innings, Howie Kendrick hit two solo home runs and Washington snapped Los Angeles' winning streak at six. Gonzalez (11-5) struck out four and issued three walks in lowering his home ERA to 1.79, now the best in baseball. The left-hander, who was three outs from a no-hitter July 31 at Miami, allowed his first hit two hits into the fifth against the Angels. Los Angeles, which had climbed into an AL wild-card spot during its streak, lost for the first time since Aug. 7. Tyler Skaggs (1-3) allowed the two home runs to Kendrick and five other hits while striking out six in five innings. Sean Doolittle picked up his 12th save of the season and his ninth with Washington.

INDIANS 8, TWINS 1

Carlos Santana hit two of Cleveland's five home runs and Danny Salazar continued his strong second-half stretch in the Indians' victory over Minnesota. Santana, Jason Kipnis and Edwin Encarnacion all hit solo homers off Bartolo Colon

(4-10) as Cleveland won its fifth straight overall and stayed unbeaten in eight games in Minnesota this season. Austin Jackson added a three-run shot and Santana homered from both sides of the plate for the Indians, who have outscored the Twins 56-16 at Target Field this season. Salazar (5-5) cruised through seven innings, allowing one run and three hits. He struck out 10 while running his mark to 2-0 with a 1.39 ERA and 46 strikeouts in 32 1/3 innings in five starts since coming off the disabled list on July 22.

YANKEES 5, METS 4

Sonny Gray outpitched Jacob deGrom, Jacoby Ellsbury and Gary Sanchez homered, and the Yankees held off the Mets to sweep both Subway Series games in the Bronx. Despite another late stumble by closer Aroldis Chapman, the Yankees kept the Empire State Building lit up in pinstripes with the win. The Mets will try to change the color scheme to blue and orange when the rivalry now shifts to Citi Field for two games beginning Wednesday night. Gray (7-7) earned his first win in three starts since being traded from Oakland to a playoff contender. He blanked the Mets on four singles until the seventh inning, when he issued a leadoff walk and rookie Dominic Smith followed with his first major league homer. Chapman gave up an infield single to pinch-hitter Jose Reyes and a two-run homer by rookie Amed Rosario in the ninth, then got two more outs for his 16th save in 20 chances. DeGrom (13-6) gave up more than four earned runs for the first time in 12 starts.

BRAVES 4, ROCKIES 3

Brandon Phillips scored the go-ahead run on a rare error by Nolan Arenado, and Atlanta beat Colorado. Nick Markakis homered for the Braves, who snapped an 11-game skid in Denver. The game was tied in the eighth when Phillips reached on a one-out double off Pat Neshek (3-3). One out later Tyler Flowers hit a routine grounder to Arenado at third base, but his throw to first was off line and skipped away from Mark Reynolds, allowing Phillips to score from second. Arenado, who has won the Gold Glove at third in each of his four seasons, has five errors in 306 total chances this season. Sam Freeman (2-0) pitched the seventh and Arodys Vizcaino worked the ninth for his seventh save.

RANGERS 10, TIGERS 4

Joey Gallo and Mike Napoli hit back-to-back homers and Texas beat Detroit to end Justin Verlander's three-game winning streak. The Rangers had just gone ahead 2-1 on Nomar Mazara's RBI single in the fourth inning when Gallo hit his 34th homer, a towering drive that landed in the second deck of seats in right-center above the Texas bullpen and was estimated at 459 feet. Napoli followed with a 416-foot shot to left for his 24th homer, and added a two-run single in the Rangers' four-run eighth. Robinson Chirinos also went deep off Verlander

(8-8), who struck out eight without any walks while allowing five runs in six innings. A.J. Griffin (6-3) allowed one run and struck out four in five innings.

REDS 2, CUBS 1

Scooter Gennett's sacrifice fly drove in Joey Votto to break a scoreless tie in the eighth, and Billy Hamilton singled in a run in the ninth and Cincinnati edged Chicago. After Votto walked for the third time and advanced to third on Adam Duvall's single off reliever Pedro Strop (3-3), Gennett smacked a line drive to right that Jason Heyward caught on the run. Cincinnati rookie Luis Castillo allowed only two hits over six innings. Chicago remained 11/2 games ahead of both St. Louis and Milwaukee in the NL Central. Ben Zobrist singled in a run in the ninth off Raisel Iglesias to cut the Reds' lead to 2-1, but Iglesias worked around three hits in the ninth for his 21st save in 22 chances. Michael Lorenzen (7-2) pitched a scoreless seventh for the win.

ASTROS 9, DIAMONDBACKS 4

Houston had six extra-base hits in the first four innings, building a big enough lead to top Arizona. Houston jumped to an 8-0 lead in the fourth inning. Starting pitcher Brad Peacock couldn't get out of the bottom of the fifth, so Francis Martes (5-2) came on and struck out all four batters he faced in 1 1/3 innings for the victory. Diamondbacks starter Anthony Banda (1-3) allowed eight runs and nine hits in four innings. George Springer had a two-run double and in the second and scored on Alex Bregman's RBI triple as the Astros opened a 5-0 lead. Peacock added a two-run double in the third.

RAYS 6, BLUE JAYS 4

Lucas Duda hit a two-run homer, Wilson Ramos added a solo shot and Tampa Bay beat Toronto, snapping a four-game skid. The Rays came in having scored 12 runs in their past 10 games. According to Elias, that is the lowest total for any AL team over a 10-game stretch since the designated hitter was introduced in 1973. The Rays suffered five shutout defeats in that span, and lead the majors with 10 scoreless losses. Blake Snell (1-6) allowed one run and four hits. Alex Colome finished for his 35th save in 40 chances. Blue Jays slugger Josh Donaldson homered for the third consecutive game, hitting a three-run shot in the fifth. Donaldson has gone deep nine times in 17 games. The blast gave him 500 RBIs. Marco Estrada (5-8) allowed six runs and 10 hits in 4 1/3 innings.

BREWERS 3, PIRATES 1

Keon Broxton hit a pinch-hit home run, Manny Pina drove in two runs, Zach Davies pitched into the seventh and Milwaukee beat Pittsburgh. Davies (14-6) allowed six hits, including Adam Frazier's run-scoring triple in the sixth, walked two and struck out two. Jared Hughes took over and retired Josh Harrison on a bouncer

back to the mound. Jacob Barnes retired the side in order in the eighth and Corey Knebel pitched the ninth for his 23rd save. Pina capitalized on Travis Shaw's success against Ivan Nova (10-10). Shaw came in batting .769 (10 for 13) against the big right-hander. He singled in the second and scored when Pina bounced into a fielder's choice with the bases loaded. In the sixth, Shaw walked and scored on Pina's two-out infield hit.

MARINERS 3, ORIOLES 1

Andrew Albers earned his first major league win in four years, pitching five effective innings as Seattle beat Baltimore to snap a five-game losing streak. Called up from the minors earlier in the day, Albers (1-0) settled down after giving up Jonathan Schoop's 26th home run in the first. He allowed six hits for his first victory since Aug. 12, 2013, when he went 2-5 in 10 starts with Minnesota. The 31-year-old lefty was acquired in a trade with Atlanta last Friday after going 12-3 at Triple-A Gwinnett. The Mariners' bullpen finished with four scoreless innings. Edwin Diaz pitched a perfect ninth for his 26th save in 30 opportunities. Seattle erased a 1-0 deficit with a run in the fourth and two in the fifth off Wade Miley (6-10).

ATHLETICS 10, ROYALS 8

Matt Joyce hit a three-run double to cap a six-run eighth inning and Oakland rallied past Kansas City. Joyce also homered and had four RBIs. Khris Davis added his 33rd home run and Matt Olson hit his fourth in five days for the A's. The Royals hit three home runs in the top of the eighth, including Mike Moustakas' 35th, to take a four-run lead before Oakland stormed back against relievers Joakim Soria and Mike Minor (5-5). The loss prevented the Royals from moving past the Angels in the race for the second AL wild card. Blake Treinen (1-0) retired five batters for his first AL win. Drew Butera, Eric Hosmer and Moustakas homered as part of the Royals' five-run eighth. Hosmer also had a two-run double and drove in four.

PADRES 8, PHILLIES 4

Cory Spangenberg homered and had a career-high four RBIs to back seven strong innings from Dinelson Lamet in San Diego's victory over Philadelphia. Spangenberg hit his career-high 12th homer and third in four games. He also had an early two-run double. Lamet (7-4) held the Phillies hitless over the first 4 2/3 innings in winning for the fourth time in his last five starts. The rookie tied a career high by working seven innings, allowing two runs and three hits. He struck out seven. Hector Sanchez had a two-run homer for the Padres. Jorge Alfaro hit his first major league homer for the Phillies, who have dropped five of six. Rhys Hoskins, called up on Thursday, hit his third home run in two days. Mark Leiter (1-3) was charged with eight runs, four earned, in five innings. — AP

MLB Results/Standings

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

American League Eastern Division				National League Eastern Division			
	W	L	PCT		W	L	PCT
Boston	68	51	.571	Washington	71	46	.607
NY Yankees	63	55	.534	Miami	57	61	.483
Tampa Bay	60	61	.496	NY Mets	53	64	.453
Baltimore	59	61	.492	Atlanta	53	64	.453
Toronto	57	62	.479	Philadelphia	43	74	.368
Central Division				Central Division			
Cleveland	65	52	.556	Chicago Cubs	62	56	.525
Minnesota	59	58	.504	St. Louis	61	58	.513
Kansas City	60	59	.504	Milwaukee	62	59	.512
Detroit	53	66	.445	Pittsburgh	58	61	.487
Chicago White Sox	45	71	.388	Cincinnati	50	70	.417
Western Division				Western Division			
Houston	73	46	.613	LA Dodgers	84	34	.712
LA Angels	61	59	.508	Colorado	66	53	.555
Seattle	60	61	.496	Arizona	66	53	.555
Texas	58	60	.492	San Diego	53	66	.445
Oakland	53	67	.442	San Francisco	48	73	.397

DANE AT VANGUARD OF CHINA'S WORLD CUP QUEST

SHANGHAI: It is the World Cup final and China beat one of the traditional heavyweights showcasing a brand of fast, attacking football that their opponents cannot live with. That, along with hosting the World Cup, is the dream of Chinese President Xi Jinping — and a Dane at a leading Chinese club is doing his part to try to make it happen.

Mads Davidsen does not necessarily think China will win the World Cup but he has no doubt that the world's most populous country can finally become a competitive force and reach the World Cup knockout stages in about 15 years.

The 34-year-old Davidsen is well-placed to judge: he is technical director at Shanghai SIPG and as part of his wide-ranging remit the Chinese Super League (CSL) club brought in the likes of Brazilian international Oscar for 60 million euros from Chelsea, and lured Andre Villas-Boas as coach.

Foreign players and coaches have

attracted unprecedented interest from the CSL, but China's national team remain an embarrassment — 77th in the FIFA rankings and with only one World Cup appearance in 2002, when they failed to get a point or even score.

Davidsen, involved in top-level Chinese football since 2013 when he worked under former England manager Sven-Goran Eriksson at Guangzhou R&F, pinpoints coaching as the crux of China's problem.

And Davidsen, who holds a UEFA Pro licence coaching badge and oversees football development at SIPG right down to the club's five-year-olds, told AFP that focusing on famous imports misses the overarching picture.

THE BIG PLAN

"It's all part of the big plan. Chinese football said, 'How can we improve the league fast? OK, get in good foreign players who can promote the league,

good foreign coaches who will lift the current local players and then we are rolling. That's what's happened the last three years.

"Everything in this plan is about improving the national team. I work for Shanghai SIPG, but where is SIPG in this project? Of course to promote our club and business, but also to help the president improve the national team."

Contrary to the perceptions of some, Davidsen said Chinese players have good basic technique — better even than Europeans in some cases.

They also have the right attitude and work-rate, he said, and respect for authority in China means they adhere to instructions from coaches.

And Chinese have another, innate quality. "I've never had more fast players. And where's football going? It's getting faster so it's crucial to have pace, it's a huge advantage," said Davidsen, whose role includes overseeing SIPG's develop-

ment of 10,000 players aged five to 13 at academies across China.

So why has China failed to develop even one world-class footballer? "It all comes down to the coaches and the environment around them," said Davidsen, who played in Denmark's third tier and by 29 was on the staff at leading Danish club Brøndby, before moving to China in 2012.

"The main development area is that the coaches here are on too low a level. A key point: the Chinese coaches must travel more, see more of football round the world to understand the demands of the modern game."

PATIENCE NEEDED

Xi — whose government is throwing money at football — and China's success-starved fans will have to be patient.

"I have seen five or six-year-olds who can do things they cannot do in Europe because technically they train repeti-

tion, so many hours of repetition," said Davidsen. "In China they accept a lot of training because they have a different mindset and tough mentality."

Ages eight to 13 are "the crucial years, when it is an open window physically, technically and tactically", he said, adding that while the current crop of Chinese players have improved markedly in recent years, it is just the beginning.

SIPG appreciate his is a long-term project, he said, but many clubs in China are more focused on immediate success.

"You have to wait for a kid who is seven, it's going to take 15 years," Davidsen said. "I'm not saying we're going to have to wait 15 years — along the way there will be decent progression, which we have already seen — but you have to wait 15 years until you see a real effect from the programmes."

"It's still new for most Chinese clubs to work strategically and build for long-term success." —AFP



CHEMNITZ: In this Aug. 12, 2017 file photo Munich's Franck Ribery and referee Bibiana Steinhaus walk on the pitch during the German Soccer Cup first-round soccer match between Chemnitz FC and FC Bayern Munich in Chemnitz, Germany. Carving her way in a man's world, Bibiana Steinhaus is striking a blow for equality as the Bundesliga's first female referee this season. — AP

GERMAN FEMALE REF READY TO WHISTLE IN BUNDESLIGA

BERLIN: Germany's Bibiana Steinhaus insists she is no feminist trailblazer as she prepares to become the first female ref in Europe's top leagues having already tamed Bayern Munich's stars.

The 38-year-old is on the official list of Bundesliga referees for the 2017/18 season, which starts tomorrow, meaning she will become the first female ref in the top flight of Germany, England, Spain, France or Italy. Steinhaus' first Bundesliga match has yet to be announced, but she oversaw Bayern Munich's 5-0 win at minnows Chemnitz last Saturday in the first-round of the German Cup and proved she can handle star players. She gave Bayern's Franck Ribery a playful punch on the arm after the French winger cheekily untied her boot laces before a free-kick. "She's strong, she has a lot of power," said Ribery. "It was funny, she played along and was in good spirits."

"You can have fun with referees, but it's also important that there's mutual respect."

Steinhaus says her promotion to the Bundesliga is a "great incentive" and reward for her hard work, but shuns her role as a trailblazer. "I never planned, and still don't today, to break new grounds of emancipation," she said at a referee's training camp in July. "I am only doing what I love."

Steinhaus has taken charge of around 80 German second division matches since 2011, refereeing the women's final at the London Olympic Games tournament and this year's women's Champions League

final. She has already acted as the fourth official in Germany's top tier and shrugged off Pep Guardiola's attempt to put his arm around her shoulders when the then-Bayern coach remonstrated with her on the touchlines in 2014.

Unfortunately, the 1.81m Steinhaus has already experienced direct sexism on the pitch. During a second division match in 2015, she sent off Hoffenheim's Germany international Kerem Demirbay, then playing for Fortuna Dusseldorf, who told her women had no place in football.

The remark led to him receiving a five-match ban by the German FA. Steinhaus, who works with a fitness coach, acknowledges that refereeing in the Bundesliga will challenge her both on and off the pitch. "I like to say that the Bundesliga is another step up, I have worked intensively and the speed is different," said Steinhaus.

"Certainly, as a female referee, I will be under special scrutiny from the start of the season, especially from the media. 'I don't seek public attention and my colleagues know me well enough to know that.' Steinhaus is a policewoman and in a relationship with English former top ref Howard Webb. She can expect to have her decisions scrutinised by fans in football-mad Germany. Claudia Neumann, Germany's first female commentator, experienced a sexist backlash on social media when she took the microphone for state broadcaster ZDF during last year's European championships.—AFP

SOCCER

JESE LOANED OUT BY PSG, LOOKS TO RELAUNCH CAREER AT STOKE

LONDON: Spanish forward Jese will attempt to relaunch his stuttering career in England after leaving Paris Saint-Germain to become the latest Champions League winner at Stoke today. The 24-year-old Jese joined Stoke on a season-long loan after failing to settle at PSG following his move from Real Madrid for a reported 25 million euros (\$29 million) in August 2016. He spent the second half of last season on loan at Spanish team Las Palmas.

Also, Swansea playmaker Gylfi Sigurdsson is close to sealing a drawn-out transfer to Everton after completing a medical examination. Everton is reportedly paying 45 million pounds (\$58 million) for the Iceland international, who would be a fourth attacking player to arrive at Goodison Park this summer after Wayne Rooney, Sandro Ramirez and Davy Klaassen.

Stoke, a team from central England that is a perennial mid-table finisher in the Premier League, has become a haven for former high-profile players or one-time prodigies whose careers have stalled.

Since 2014, forwards Bojan Krkic and Ibrahim Afellay have joined from Barcelona while ex-Bayern Munich winger Xherdan Shaqiri has arrived from Inter Milan. They all have Champions League winners' medals, as does ex-Manchester United midfielder Darren Fletcher, who was an off-season signing from West Bromwich Albion.

Most were back-ups for their clubs in their Champions League-winning campaigns, with Jese an unused substitute for Real in its victory over Atletico Madrid in the 2016 final. "Jese was a man in demand when PSG made it clear they would allow him to leave on loan and we're delighted he has chosen to join us," Stoke chief executive Tony Scholes said. "He hasn't had the happiest of periods in his career in Paris, but he's still only a young man and is hungry to make a



PARIS: In this Aug. 21, 2016 file photo, PSG's Jese Rodriguez reacts before the French League One soccer match between PSG and Metz at the Parc des Princes stadium in Paris. Paris Saint-Germain said yesterday it is loaning Spanish forward Jese Rodriguez to Stoke City for this season, without the option to buy him. — AP

big impression in the Premier League."

Jese will play out wide and is viewed as a replacement for Marko Arnautovic, who left Stoke this off-season to join West Ham. Stoke also sold Spanish striker Joselu to Newcastle for an undisclosed fee yesterday. Stoke announced the arrival of Jese in a tweet that included audio clips from pundits in the British media saying the club lacked ambition and would struggle in the Premier League this season.

The team managed by Mark Hughes lost 1-0 at Everton in its opening league game of the season on Saturday. Jese was a highly rated youngster at Real Madrid and made his La Liga

debut under coach Jose Mourinho in 2012. He mostly played for Real's reserve team and sustained a serious knee injury in March 2014, ruling him out for nine months.

He signed a five-year deal with PSG last summer but started only one league game, with another eight appearances as substitute.

Although technically skilled, Jese has not played so far this season and does not figure in coach Unai Emery's plans - although the deal with Stoke does not include an option to buy him. At Las Palmas, Jese scored three goals in 13 games. Jese is Stoke's sixth signing of the summer transfer window.—AP



EDGBASTON: West Indies cricket players perform drills during the nets session at Edgbaston cricket ground in, Birmingham, England, yesterday. The West Indies will play the England in the first day-night cricket Test match to be held in England at Edgbaston today. — AP

LAW URGES WINDIES TO 'REWRITE HISTORY' AGAINST ENGLAND

BIRMINGHAM: West Indies coach Stuart Law hopes his side can "rewrite history" during a Test series in England. The first of a three-match campaign gets underway at Edgbaston today with the inaugural day/night Test ever staged in England. Much of the pre-match build-up has focused on how Joe Root's men will cope with their first tasted of pink ball international cricket.

Also, given this is England's last Test series before they tour Australia, there has been much speculation as to what the composition of this side could mean in terms of their Ashes defence 'Down Under'. That England, fresh from a 3-1 home success against South Africa, will win their series against the West Indies is almost taken as read, something unthinkable when the men from the Caribbean were dominating Test cricket in the 1970s and 1980s.

Yet a sign of how far the West Indies have slipped from those heights is that they have gone 17 matches without a Test win in England, losing 14 and drawing the other three.

Although an end now appears in sight to a

bitter dispute between players and officials, the West Indies have still arrived in England without several star names for a series that is, to the dismay of traditionalists, taking place at the same time as the lucrative Caribbean Premier League Twenty20 competition.

Yet the West Indies did draw their last Test series against England in the Caribbean two years ago — despite being labelled a "mediocre" side by England and Wales Cricket Board chairman Colin Graves. Jason Holder, the captain for that series, is still the West Indies skipper and Law is confident the all-rounder remains the right man for the job. "He takes it with a pinch of salt, the things said about him and this team and uses it to drive him and them forward," Law told reporters at Edgbaston on Tuesday.

"It is a lot of responsibility, and he does it with fantastic integrity," added former batsman Law, who made just one Test appearance for Australia such was their top-order strength in the 1990s.

Law knows English cricket well from his successful playing stints with county sides Essex

and Lancashire. England may have overwhelmed South Africa but doubts about their top-order batting remain.

The Edgbaston Test will see Mark Stoneman become Alastair Cook's 12th England opening partner in the five years since Andrew Strauss retired. Meanwhile Tom Westley and Dawid Malan have yet to nail down their places at numbers three and five respectively. West Indies' pace attack, which includes Shannon Gabriel and 20-year-old Alzarri Joseph, could pose problems for an England top order often overly-reliant on Cook and Root.

"You always look at a little crack you can find," said Law. "With a couple of new guys to the fore in Test cricket, that's an opportunity for our bowlers," he added. "There's been a lot said about this (West Indies) cricket team, and that is motivation for them," Law explained. "We're looking forward — let's rewrite that history." But the West Indies, for all that Shai Hope and Roston Chase scored centuries in a warm-up match against Derbyshire last week, have their own top-order concerns.—AFP

BONUCCI IN LINE FOR MILAN DEBUT IN EUROPA LEAGUE

PARIS: AC Milan's headline signing in a summer spending spree, Italy defender Leonardo Bonucci is in line to make his debut for the club in the Europa League today. A little over two months after playing for Juventus against Real Madrid in the Champions League final, Bonucci looks ready to feature for his new club against modest Macedonians Shkendija in their play-off first leg.

The 30-year-old has been made captain by coach Vincenzo Montella after his shock 40 million-euro (\$46 million) transfer to the Chinese-owned club.

"I chose Bonucci because he is very charismatic and has international experience. He embodies the role of captain perfectly," said Montella ahead of the game.

"Leo said he wants to win the Champions League in four years? If he does well we can make it happen even sooner."

A spending spree that has seen the likes of Portugal striker Andre Silva, Switzerland full-back Ricardo Rodriguez and Turkey midfielder Hakan Calhanoglu arrive at the San Siro has raised optimism among supporters ahead of the start of the new Serie A season. Seven-time European champions Milan are appearing in continental competition for the first time since 2013/14 and almost 66,000 fans attended the home leg of their third qualifying round win over Universitatea Craiova of Romania.

Today's game comes just three days before Milan go to Crotona for their Serie A opener but Montella wants no slip-ups

against a side from an Albanian-majority region of Macedonia.

"They have played more competitive games than us. They made it through three qualifying rounds and they have beaten the reigning champions in their domestic league," warned Montella.

Everton are the one Premier League side in action in the play-offs and they host Croatians Hajduk Split at Goodison Park in the first leg. The Toffees come into the game boosted by the news that Iceland star Gylfi Sigurdsson has passed a medical ahead of a £45 million (\$58m, 49.4m euros) move from Swansea City.

He will not make his debut yet, while coach Ronald Koeman has admitted Everton do not have a huge amount of options for the game with Spanish striker Sandro Ramirez a doubt.

They also have a trip to Manchester City to come on Monday but Koeman said: "Playing in different competitions isn't a problem at this stage of the season. Of course, we have a difficult 10 days coming up and it's tough but we will go game by game. "We won't reserve people for Monday — Europe is important to us and we want to be in the competition."

Other stand-out ties in the play-off round include Athletic Bilbao going to Athens to take on Panathinaikos, Marseille facing Domzale in Slovenia and last season's runners-up Ajax hosting Rosenborg in a clash between two teams who lost in the Champions League third qualifying round.—AFP

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STANTON HOMERS IN 6TH STRAIGHT, MARLINS FALL TO GIANTS

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SINSHEIM: Hoffenheim's Bosnian defender Ermin Bicakcic (C) and Hoffenheim's midfielder Kevin Vogt (R) and Liverpool's Senegalese midfielder Sadio Mane (L) vie for the ball during the Champions League football qualifier match TSG 1899 Hoffenheim vs Liverpool FC in Sinsheim, Germany, on Tuesday. —AFP

OWN GOAL SEALS LIVERPOOL WIN AT HOFFENHEIM

BERLIN: Jurgen Klopp insists Liverpool are far from certain of a Champions League group stage berth despite their 2-1 win at Hoffenheim on Tuesday in their play-off, first-leg. The result in south-west Germany leaves Klopp's Liverpool in pole position ahead of the return at Anfield on Wednesday, August 23.

After goalkeeper Simon Mignolet had saved a first-half penalty, 18-year-old defender Trent Alexander-Arnold curled in a free-kick to give Liverpool the lead. Ex-England forward James Milner made sure of victory by curling in a cross-cum-shot, which dropped inside the far post on 75 minutes after deflecting off Havard Nordtveit for an own goal. However, Hoffenheim pulled a goal back when replacement Mark Uth managed to beat the

offside trap to score late on to give the Germans hope. "I am happy with the performance, we'd have liked to have won 2-0 and the goal they scored just before the end isn't so favourable for us," said Klopp.

"We could have scored one or two more goals and we need Anfield in the return leg. "This thing isn't over yet." Liverpool's want-away attacking midfielder Philippe Coutinho sat out the play-off with a back injury. The Brazilian is desperate to leave Anfield for Barcelona after handing in a transfer request, but Liverpool insist he is not for sale.

Belgium goalkeeper Mignolet saved an early first-half penalty to deny hosts Hoffenheim an early lead in Sinsheim.

When Liverpool's Dejan Lovren brought down Germany winger Serge Gnabry, Hoffenheim's ex-

Leicester City striker Andrej Kramaric stepped up for the spot kick.

The Hoffenheim forward squandered the golden chance, weakly firing his 11th minute spot-kick at Mignolet. At the other end, Liverpool's Egypt striker Mohamed Salah fired just wide of the post on 15 minutes after sprinting clear and beating Hoffenheim goalkeeper Oliver Baumann.

Alexander-Arnold gave Liverpool the lead when his floated free-kick beat Baumann on 35 minutes. However, Hoffenheim could have gone into the break level when striker Sandro Wagner hit the post after Mignolet blocked a Gnabry shot. Liverpool should have made it 2-0 straight after the break when Baumann saved Roberto Firmin's shot from point-blank range after Sadio Mane's clever cross.

'BRAVE'

Substitute Milner put the matter beyond doubt when he snapped up Firmino's pass to the wing from a quickly taken free-kick. He fired home off his left boot on 75 minutes as the shot clipped Nordtveit and went into the net.

Uth netted Hoffenheim's consolation goal to give his team a lifeline when he managed to hold off Alexander-Arnold to score on 87 minutes. "We deserved to at least of had a draw," said Hoffenheim coach Julian Nagelsmann.

"We were brave, but we were a bit too open in the second half and risked too much." The way the game went, with the missed penalty, was unfortunate for us." Elsewhere, Apoel Nicosia took a big step towards the group stages with a 2-0 win over

Czech side Slavia Prague in Cyprus with Igor de Camargo and Efsthathios Aloneftis scoring in the first ten minutes.

The Cypriot outfit were knocked out by FC Copenhagen at this stage last season, but the Danes are struggling this time, falling 1-0 in Azerbaijan by Qarabag FK.

Mahir Madatov scored the only goal of the night when he fired in a rebound after Dino Ndllovu's shot hit the post after 25 minutes.

In Switzerland, Young Boys defender Kasim Adams Nuhu scored an own goal in added time to hand CSKA Moscow a 1-0 win. Steaua Bucharest, reduced to ten men after Mihai Pitintili was sent off ten minutes from time, drew 0-0 at Sporting Lisbon. —AFP

BAYERN EXPECTED TO WIN SIXTH STRAIGHT TITLE

BERLIN: Bayern Munich kick off the new Bundesliga season tomorrow with the coaches of 13 of their 17 rivals expecting them to dominate again — although Usain Bolt's recent shock defeat is being used as inspiration. Bayern host Bayer Leverkusen at the Allianz Arena in the season opener, with the Bavarians the overwhelming favourites to win the title.

In a survey by AFP subsidiary SID of the 18 coaches in Germany's top flight, the overwhelming consensus is that Carlo Ancelotti's Bayern will claim a sixth straight league crown. "I'm tipping Bayern, but nothing is set in stone," said Cologne's coach Peter Stoeger. "If Usain Bolt can lose a 100 metres race, perhaps someone else can be champions in Germany."

Jamaica's Bolt could only settle for bronze over 100m behind Justin Gatlin at the IAAF World Championships in his final individual race before retiring in London.

In the last decade, Bayern have won the Bundesliga title seven times — five of which have been on the spin since 2012. They finished 15 points ahead of second-placed RB Leipzig last term.

"Our required standard is to win the Bundesliga title," said Bayern president Uli Hoenes bluntly.

According to the SID survey, only Borussia Dortmund's new boss Peter Bosz, Hoffenheim's Julian Nagelsmann and Stuttgart's Hannes Wolf opted not to say which name they think will be engraved on the trophy for 2017/18.

Leverkusen's Heiko Herrlich was the only coach who tipped Dortmund, the last team to break Bayern's stranglehold in 2011/12, to be champions. But his was a lone voice.

Bayern have strengthened their squad by

signing midfielders Corentin Tolisso from Lyon and James Rodriguez from Real Madrid.

However, Bayern will be without the steadying influence of ex-captain Philipp Lahm and Spain midfielder Xabi Alonso, who both retired in May.

"If everything goes normally, FC Bayern will be the champions again," said Leipzig coach Ralph Hasenhuettel. "We want to surprise again, even if this season will be a lot harder." Bayern boss Ancelotti sees Dortmund, who are battling to keep hold of wantaway teenage winger Ousmane Dembele, as their main rivals. "Of course, we want to be champions again and I think we can do it," said the Italian. "From everyone else, Borussia Dortmund will be our challengers."

Ancelotti expects Leipzig to struggle to come to terms with their first season in the Champions League group stages.

"We'll have to see how Leipzig fare, they have a stressful season ahead of them with the new experience of the Champions League," added Ancelotti. Ex-Germany international and Bayern captain Stefan Effenberg expects a two-horse race in Germany with Dortmund challenging for the title. "I think Borussia Dortmund are in a position to annoy Bayern Munich this year," the 49-year-old told SID. "Of course, for that to happen, things will have to go well. "I don't see three or four teams challenging, but everyone will be closer together."

Effenberg thinks Leverkusen are fortunate to play Bayern first. "This is an advantage for Leverkusen, because when Bayern Munich get on a roll, then you don't walk off the pitch there as winners," he said. "In the first game, it's a bit different. If you're lucky, then anything is possible." —AFP



MUNICH: In this July 12, 2017 file photo FC Bayern Munich's new recruit, James Rodriguez, poses during his presentation in the Allianz Arena in Munich, Germany. Bayern Munich will face Bayer Leverkusen in an opening match of the new Bundesliga season tomorrow. —AP

VILLA PLUNGE INTO BOTTOM THREE, CARDIFF ON TOP

LONDON: Aston Villa crashed in the Championship relegation zone after a 2-1 defeat at Reading, while Cardiff sit top of the table following their 2-0 win over Sheffield United on Tuesday.

Villa's latest stumble means their star defender John Terry is still searching for his first Championship win since joining Steve Bruce's side following his release by Chelsea at the end of last season.

Terry and company fell behind four minutes into the second half when Glenn Whelan deflected Adrian Popa's cross into his own net. The Royals, beaten by Huddersfield on penalties in last season's play-off final, doubled their lead after 55 minutes through a close-range effort from Mo Barrow.

Villa, one of the pre-season promotion favourites thanks to Terry's arrival, pulled a late goal back through Conor Hourihane but it was not enough to prevent them slipping to second bottom. At the Cardiff City Stadium, Sean Morrison headed the Bluebirds in front from a corner just before the interval before midfielder Nathaniel Mendez-Laing netted his fourth goal of the season 10 minutes into the second half. Wolves also made it three league in a row with a 3-2 win at Hull.

The visitors raced into an early lead through Ruben Neves, but Hull were back on level terms after 27 minutes when Michael Dawson headed home a corner. On-loan Atletico Madrid midfielder Diogo Jota put the visitors back in front two minutes ahead of the break.

Substitute Ricardo Cavaleiro slotted home a third in stoppage time before David Meyler's penalty for Hull reduced the deficit. Ipswich are the other team to have maximum points from their first three matches after a late goal from Jordan Spence secured a dramatic 4-3 win at Millwall.

The Lions were in front after just 43 seconds when Jed Wallace swept home, but Ipswich soon levelled through a long-range effort by Joe Garner. There were then two goals in as many minutes as first Martyn Waghorn put Town ahead, only for Aiden O'Brien to square things up again with a close-range finish after 36 minutes. Mick McCarthy's side found themselves in front once more in first-half stoppage time when Republic of Ireland forward David McGoldrick set up Waghorn. Tom Elliott looked to have earned Millwall a point when he made it 3-3 with 10 minutes left, but there was still time for Spence to head in an 87th-minute winner.

Barnsley picked up their first points of the new campaign with a 2-1 home win over Nottingham Forest. Bristol City grabbed an equaliser deep into eight minutes of stoppage time to bag a 2-2 draw at Brentford.

A 58th-minute penalty from Matej Vydra was enough to give Derby a 1-0 home win over Preston. Britt Assombalonga scored twice as Middlesbrough beat 10-man Burton 2-0 at the Riverside Stadium.

There were no goals between Birmingham and Bolton at St Andrew's, while Leeds and Fulham also shared a 0-0 draw. —AFP

Kuwait Times 55th Anniversary BUSINESS

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US home construction
slumped in July

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Weaker euro, stronger growth
lift Euro shares

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Al-Mazaya Holding
among top 10 listed
firms for corporate
governance

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INDIA CRACKS DOWN ON SHELL COMPANIES; 200,000 SHUT

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WASHINGTON: US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer (right) speaks with Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland, as they leave a news conference, which included Mexico's Secretary of Economy Ildefonso Guajardo Villarreal yesterday at the start of NAFTA renegotiations in Washington. — AP

US TALKS TOUGH AS NAFTA TALKS KICK OFF

TRUMP'S 'AMERICA FIRST' AGENDA LOOMS LARGE

WASHINGTON: The United States yesterday laid down a tough line for modernizing the North American Free Trade Agreement, demanding major changes to the pact that would reduce US trade deficits with Mexico and Canada and increase US content. As the negotiations kicked off to modernize the North American Free Trade Agreement, the biggest uncertainty is whether a deal can pass President Donald Trump's "America First" test.

Speaking at the start of the talks in Washington, US President Donald Trump's top trade adviser, Robert Lighthizer, said NAFTA had "failed many, many Americans" and Trump was not interested in "a mere tweaking" of the 23-year-old pact.

"We feel that NAFTA has fundamentally failed many, many Americans and needs major improvement," Lighthizer, the US Trade Representative, said in an opening statement.

Lighthizer said repeated US demands for increased regional and US content in autos produced in the region, the largest source of a \$64-billion US goods trade deficit with Mexico last year. He also said the United States would insist on strong provisions governing labor and currency practices.

"We need to ensure that the huge trade deficits do not

continue and we have balance and reciprocity. This should be periodically reviewed," said Lighthizer. "The rules of origin, particularly on autos and auto parts, must require higher NAFTA content and substantial US content."

Canada's Foreign Minister and lead NAFTA negotiator, Chrystia Freeland, took a swipe at the US position on the need to shrink the US trade deficit. "Canada does not view trade surpluses or deficits as a primary measure of whether a trading relationship works," she said in her opening statement. "Nonetheless, it's worth noting that our trade with the US is balanced and mutually beneficial."

Mexican Economy Minister Ildefonso Guajardo said the aim of the talks should be to tear up NAFTA, but to forge a stronger deal. "The issue is not tearing apart what has worked, but rather, how we make our agreement better," he said. "For a deal to be successful, it has to work for all parties involved. Otherwise, it is not a deal."

Analysts said the biggest uncertainty is whether a deal can pass President Donald Trump's "America First" test. Trump has blamed NAFTA for shuttering US factories and sending US jobs to low-wage Mexico, a point that Lighthizer also emphasized in his opening remarks. The test will be whether negotiators can prove that a new NAFTA agreement can alter that course.

'Do no harm'

The call from the US business community in the run-up to the talks has been "do no harm" amid concerns that a new agreement will unravel a complex North American network of manufacturing suppliers built around NAFTA. Trump, who made trade a centerpiece of his presidential campaign as he promised to reinvigorate the manufacturing sector, pulled the United States out of the Trans Pacific Partnership trade pact shortly after taking office in January. But he has since backed off other trade threats, including declaring China a currency manipulator and tearing up NAFTA, which he regularly calls a disaster. US-Canada-Mexico trade has quadrupled since NAFTA took effect in 1994, surpassing \$1 trillion in 2015.

Derek Burney, a former Canadian ambassador to Washington who was involved in the first NAFTA negotiations, said that in the previous NAFTA talks there was a political commitment from all sides to reach a deal. That is not the case now, he said. "The question ... is, What will Trump accept as a success in these negotiations?" said Burney. "To me, that is the biggest wild card of all."

Robert Holleyman, a former deputy US trade representative during the Obama administration, said the "toughest nut to crack" in the talks will be whether changes meet

Trump's goal of reducing the trade deficit. "We know where he wants to make changes to NAFTA. Whether those changes lead up to something that actually reduces the trade deficit with Mexico is wholly unclear," Holleyman said.

NAFTA renegotiation will be a major test of Trump's ability to meet his campaign promises to restore US manufacturing jobs. Although he has inherited a strong economy that has added 1.29 million jobs this year, his promises of an ambitious legislative agenda have been derailed by the failure of a healthcare bill and the lack of a detailed plan for tax reform. Also weighing heavily over the talks is the upcoming 2018 Mexico presidential election. Mexico has urged all sides to complete the negotiations before the campaign ramps up in February to avoid it becoming a political punching bag.

One of the most contentious issues in the talks is likely to be over the "Chapter 19" mechanism requiring the use of bi-national panels to settle anti-dumping and anti-subsidy disputes, which the Trump administration wants to eliminate because the rulings often go against the United States.

Mexico has said its NAFTA goals are free access for goods and services, greater labor market integration and a strengthening of energy security. — Agencies

BRUISED BUT COPING, QATAR ECONOMY REMAINS STRONG

DOHA: Qatar's economy has been hit by the sanctions imposed by a Saudi-led Arab bloc but the emirate's economy is strong enough to survive, analysts say. Since June 5, Saudi Arabia and allies Bahrain, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates shut down air, maritime and land links with Qatar, and imposed economic sanctions, accusing Doha of supporting "terrorists" and of being too close to Iran. Qatar, denying the charges, accuses its Gulf neighbors of seeking to strangle its economy.

The heavily air-conditioned malls of Doha, a city in the throes of a \$200-plus billion construction boom as it aims to make a splash on the world stage by hosting football's 2022 World Cup, remain busy as ever, as do its roads. To counter the sanctions and trading curbs, ally Turkey and neighbouring Iran have been pouring in food supplies by air and sea. "In the medium- to long-term, perhaps people who live here will feel" the effects, but for the time being, "we haven't felt any big difference," said Mohamed Ammar, who heads the Qatari Businessmen Association.

For Rashid bin Ali Al-Mansoori, CEO of the Qatar Stock Exchange, the worst is already over. The second most highly-capitalized bourse in the Middle East plunged seven percent on June 5 and lost almost 10 percent in the first three days. "We were surprised and the market also was surprised, so the market really reacted to the news like any other market of course," he said.

But "the Qatar economy is very strong, it's the strongest economy in the region... investor trust and confidence in the market is still there," said Mansoori.

The level, however, remains around six percent lower than during pre-crisis Qatar. And analysts are predicting a long drawn-out crisis which will affect investor confidence, with Bloomberg assessing at the end of July that Qatar's economy was showing "the strain". "Data released last week showed that foreign deposits at Qatar's banks fell the most in almost two years last month as customers withdrew funds, pressuring liquidity available locally for businesses and the government," it said.

Amy McAlister of consultancy firm Oxford Economics said central bank data showed reserves were running at their lowest level since May 2012, a slide of 30 percent compared with June 2016. "Uncertainty will have prompted banks and portfolio investment funds to withdraw money from Qatar, leading to a fall in reserves as the central bank tries to ease liquidity pressures," she said. "The central bank will have also depleted reserves to support the currency peg to the US dollar, which has seen pressure since the dispute began."

'Most resilient in Mideast'

Oxford Economics has revised its growth outlook for 2017 down to 1.4 percent, compared with 3.4 percent before the Gulf crisis, and re-

evaluated inflation at 1.8 percent, up from the anticipated 1.5 percent, because of higher import costs. Fitch, Moody's and Standard & Poor's have downgraded their credit ratings for Qatar. But analysts have faith in the capacity of Qatar, holder of the world's third-largest natural gas reserves after giants Russia and Iran, to withstand a long crisis.

"Qatar is the most resilient country in the Middle East by far," said Andreas Krieg, a strategic risk analyst and assistant professor at King's College London university. "They are very determined to see this through. Unlike the other countries, they have the most stable economy and the most stable financial situation. "The per capita reserves they have are the greatest in the world. Even if they have to liquidate some of their investments overseas, they could do but, at this point, this is not on the books," he said.

The tiny emirate with a population of 2.6 million, 80 percent of them foreigners, ranks as the world's richest on a per-capita basis, according to the International Monetary Fund. It holds a staggering \$330 billion in a sovereign wealth fund, with assets heavily invested abroad. "It is worth pointing out that these reserves do not include the foreign assets of the sovereign wealth fund, so the wider impact may not be as significant as the sharp drop initially suggests," said McAlister. For McAlister, despite uncertainty over the timeframe of the crisis, "Qatar will likely be able to withstand economic sanctions for many years." — AFP

CANADA APPROVES FIRST CRYPTOCURRENCY SALE

TORONTO: Canadian financial regulators have approved the public sale of a new digital currency in the country's first official endorsement of money created independently of the government or central banks, company officials said yesterday.

Produced with digital encryption techniques, cryptocurrencies like Montreal-based Impak Coin allow users to create their own money supply - with potentially significant impacts for how wealth and property rights are controlled. Impak Coin has already raised more than C\$1.5 million (\$1.18 million) for the new currency and plans to launch an Initial Coin Offering - or a public sale of the digital money - this month. By allowing people to create a new currency, the project aims to reduce the power of big banks in determining how property rights are managed and money is created, said Paul Allard, chief executive of Impak Finance, the social enterprise behind the project.

"It is up to communities to decide how to manage a currency, it is not only for the government to decide," Allard told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

No need for govt

Throughout modern history governments have had control over how money is created and the power to enforce contracts and determine how goods and

services are transferred. Cryptocurrencies - through blockchain, the information storage and database system they use - have challenged that power, said Simon Trimborn, a professor at the Free University of Berlin who studies digital networks.

"The link between cryptocurrencies and individual property rights is the information storage and transaction system behind cryptocurrencies, the blockchain," Trimborn told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "It is a database which can guarantee property rights while there is no need for relying on a company or government."

Contracts are made digitally between peers and transactions are often conducted without government oversight, reducing the state's power over the market.

The move by financial authorities to approve the sale of the digital money means "confidence and trust for investors," said Jean-Philippe Vergne, a professor at the Ivey Business School in Ontario, Canada, who studies cryptocurrencies. "We are observing a profound change in the nature of capitalism," Vergne told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "For the first time we have a technology that allows us to remove intermediaries such as government or central banks." — Reuters

Bain & Company Survey

ENGAGING EMPLOYEES WITH ZERO-BASED BUDGETING

By Akram Alami

KUWAIT: Based on a recent global survey by Bain & Company, more companies use the tool as they face more pressure to cut costs. The system is quite popular in companies in the Asia-Pacific where 80 per cent of executives interviewed by Bain for the 2015 report noted their plans to implement zero-based budgeting programs. And chances that history may repeat itself could show low levels of satisfaction in the use of the program. Less than half of big companies have reported success from their efforts.

Following our analysis of the experiences of 11 publicly-owned corporations, despite the benefits of zero-budgeting, the system failed to engage employees. These companies were evaluated across three metrics of success: the EBIT margin growth, revenue growth and employee engagement. Glassdoor data showed that less employees recommend the company to a friend, dropping in nine of the eleven cases, by an average of eight percentage points. Observing employee engagement in hundreds of cases, we found out that the decline takes place as the power to lead decreases, top talents leave and morale wavers.

We have seen though how the most successful companies boost employee engagement under zero-based budgeting by using an approach to organizational and business process simplification, which we call zero-based redesign. This method can revive a company's view about ownership, removing the idea that impedes employees from doing their jobs and simplifying the organization as well as disappointing practices that dampen the enthusiasm of results-oriented high performers. This is visible in one our cases: A manager at 3G Capital reported that

before the company used zero-based budgeting to simplify roles and objectives, remove layers of and standardize processes at Kraft-Heinz, he used to struggle keeping pace with a huge number of emails that go up to 300, including several unproductive meetings on a regular day. Now, the system has resulted to fewer than 40 emails in a day and meetings have become very targeted and well-organized.

A thoughtfully devised, simpler environment should energize people, enabling them to improve performance and earn financial rewards for their results. Higher employee engagement positions a company to increase both revenues and margins faster than competitors over the long term. It also can set the stage for agile ways of working.

How to achieve

How to achieve that vision? First, instead of treating overheads as expenses, regard the program as an opportunity to reframe them as a multiyear investment in building assets-the capabilities and human capital-that can deliver a sustained competitive advantage. Also, emphasize the central human element of building the organizational muscle for continuous cost improvement. By primarily focusing on technicalities such as cost packages and policies, the odds of success drop dramatically. Lasting results require a highly collaborative process designed to change long-term behavior.

As with any major change, the CEO and leadership team must be willing to maintain the commitment over the long term, serving as role models and coaches, and sending clear and consistent messages throughout the organization. As a starting point, companies need to clarify-possibly rediscover-their insurgent mission. Our colleagues Chris Zook and

James Allen introduced the concept of the insurgent mission in *The Founder's Mentality: How to Overcome the Predictable Crises of Growth*. At its highest level, the insurgent mission answers the fundamental question: Why do we exist? The company must understand the insurgent mission and the resulting strategy, spelling out how it differentiates the company in the market.

Next, the company needs to assess its current and past return on operating expenses to inform savings and investment opportunities. The objective is to determine how to weight opex toward those areas of the business that provide the best long-term returns and are most consistent with the insurgent mission, making sure every dollar is a working dollar in service to strategy. Each organization is unique, and to maximize results, the effort must be attuned to a company's culture. When designing the zero-based budgeting capability, the first critical questions to answer concern the scope of the program. Companies need to determine how restrictive to make spend policies, for example, or how deeply to tie incentives to zero-based budgeting performance.

Zero-based budgeting doesn't tell you how to take out the cost. To do that, companies need a holistic approach that tackles complexity just as it tackles overconsumption. In the same way that zero-based budgeting forces companies to scrutinize every dollar of spending, a zero-based redesign enables companies to radically revamp their operating models by analyzing which activities should be performed at what levels and at what frequency. It also helps them examine how they could perform these activities better-potentially through streamlining, standardization, outsourcing, offshoring or automation. Best-in-class companies reengineer the

work to optimize the cost to serve customers. They adapt the operating model to reduce organizational and business complexity, clarify decision making and accountability, and rebalance the portfolio to discontinue dilutive or non-strategic investments. This holistic line of attack delivers a simplified, latter organization that empowers employees by clarifying the link between individual responsibilities and the most critical value drivers in the business.

To avoid losing the hearts, minds and energy of employees, companies need to make a compelling case for change, linked to company strategy, and translate it into meaningful behavior change for employees. The best companies don't design their zero-based budgeting in a back room to be unveiled to the organization as a fait accompli. Instead, they co-create it with key change agents (e.g., the package owners) across the organization. With greater empowerment and responsibility, employees can become more engaged to make front-line decisions. Companies can further improve the employee experience and value proposition by channeling some of the savings back into investment in employees.

When most successful, zero-based budgeting creates a new culture of ownership. And feeling like an owner is something that employees can get excited about. Companies can achieve this only through strong leadership, a clear insurgent mission to guide the effort, tuning the zero-based budgeting dials to a company's unique needs, a holistic approach that addresses organizational complexity, and an unwavering dedication to keep employees engaged. This is what separates the companies that establish themselves as cost, energy and growth leaders-trifecta winners-from those that reap no more than temporary savings. — Akram Alami, Partner, Dubai - Bain Middle East

INDIA CRACKS DOWN ON SHELL COMPANIES; 200,000 SHUT
HUNDREDS OF SHELL FIRMS LOCATED IN KOLKATA

NEW DELHI/KOLKATA: When India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi banned high-denomination currency bills in a surprise move late last year, authorities noticed a surge in shell companies depositing cash in banks, seemingly in a bid to hide who owned that wealth.

The moment, said a top aide to Modi, was an eye-opener for the government, which had not realized just how much shell companies were being used to hide assets and launder money.

Modi's office has formed a team of top law enforcement and revenue officials to go after such companies, according to the aide and a government memo reviewed by Reuters.

Last month, the authorities ordered nearly 200,000 shell companies to be shut down, and the aide said the government is examining hundreds of thousands more. The systematic crackdown on shell companies - which have no active business operations or assets - is perhaps one of the most tangible outcomes of demonetization, which aimed to hit tax evasion and move India toward cashless, digital transactions that leave a paper trail.

"We are very much at war against black money. The impact of this (crackdown) will be huge on shell companies," the aide, who cannot be named in line with government rules, told Reuters. In his Independence Day address on Tuesday, Modi claimed credit for going after these companies, and warned that "looters of the nation's wealth will have to answer."

Modi took office in 2014, vowing to fight corruption and bring back billions of dollars stashed away overseas as well as in real estate, stock markets and front companies through a web of fictitious names. While the move to with-

draw 85 percent of bank notes shook the economy and was widely criticized, the fight against unaccounted wealth carries overwhelming support from ordinary Indians who often have to pay bribes for government services.

Lalbazar Street, Kolkata

A high-level task force leading the investigation has found hundreds of shell companies registered in a few buildings in the eastern city of Kolkata, according to the government note reviewed by Reuters. More than 400 companies listed their address in a dimly-lit colonial-era building at 9/12 Lalbazar Street.

In its warren of offices were firms offering services such as earthmoving equipment, infrastructure financing, information technology consultants and many others which had office space the size of cubicles. Many were locked, with their padlocks coated in dust. Others were grimy residential quarters with laundry hanging from the windows.

Data separately provided by Tofler, a company information database service, identified nearly 3,000 companies in two offices in the building. Some were named after flowers.

A tax inspector said the Kolkata firms were a virtual money laundering industry and drew a parallel to the Panama legal firm Mossack Fonseca that emerged from obscurity last year after the leak of millions of documents from its offices that illustrated how the wealthy use offshore corporations to avoid taxes. "The Kolkata industry does the work of obfuscating money trails. Kolkata companies are a huge network that take your money from one end and bring it out the other," said the inspector, who didn't

want to be identified as he's not authorized to talk to the media.

FRAUD AND EMBEZZLEMENT

The shell companies support much of the fraud and embezzlement in India, tax authorities say. The owners of these companies create elaborate smokescreens, including naming personal servants and chauffeurs as board directors, the tax inspector said, adding they are used to obscure the ultimate beneficiaries, conceal political investment, route money to evade tax, commit fraud or manipulate tenders.

Last week, the Securities Exchange Board of India imposed trading restrictions on 162 listed entities as shell companies as part of its broader crackdown on illegal offshore transfers and tax evasion. Several firms identified in the list of front companies have challenged the decision, saying they were engaged in legitimate business. The Serious Fraud Investigation Office is creating a database of shell companies, and has so far identified 114,269 as front firms.

The database contains details of those involved in the shell company 'eco-system', from those who set up the companies to the beneficiaries of laundered money and the professional mediators who bring the operators and beneficiaries together, the government note said.

More than 370 front companies were listed at 23A Netaji Subhash Road, another site in Kolkata, according to the note. Sujit Kumar Mukherjee, the secretary of the 23A Tenants' Association, said he was not in a position to say if there were front firms operating from the building. "It is very difficult to say who is doing what behind the front door," he said.— Reuters



A plane of the Air Berlin company flying above the town of Wustermark, Germany. Struggling German carrier Air Berlin says it's filing for bankruptcy after its main shareholder, Abu Dhabi-based Etihad, said it would make no more financing available. —AP

RYANAIR FILES COMPLAINT WITH EU AFTER AIR BERLIN BANKRUPTCY

BERLIN: Germany yesterday rejected a claim by budget airline Ryanair of a "conspiracy" behind efforts to keep bankrupt rival Air Berlin afloat until a new owner is found.

The Irish airline lodged a complaint with European Union competition authorities after Air Berlin filed for bankruptcy protection and then got a 150 million euro (\$177 million) loan from the German government. Ryanair said late Tuesday there's "an obvious conspiracy" between the German government, Lufthansa and Air Berlin. The loan will help Air Berlin to keep flights running for the next three months, while it is negotiating a possible deal with Lufthansa and another unnamed carrier, reported by

German media to be easyJet. A spokeswoman for Germany's Economy Ministry said it was "absurd" to claim that the rescue package had been staged. Beate Baron told reporters in Berlin that the government expects the loan to Germany's second-largest airline to be repaid.

Air Berlin filed for bankruptcy protection Tuesday after its main shareholder, Abu Dhabi-based Etihad, said it would make no more financing available following years of unsuccessful turnaround attempts.

The airline, which carries some 80,000 people a day mostly on short-haul destinations, made a loss of about 782 million euros last year.—AP

SQUEEZE ON UK LIVING STANDARDS EASES AS WAGES PICK UP

LONDON: The squeeze on living standards in Britain since last year's Brexit vote appears to be abating, a development that should, if sustained in the months to come, shore up the economy as it gears up for its exit from the European Union.

The Office for National Statistics said yesterday that average weekly earnings, including bonuses, increased by 2.1 percent in the three months to June against the same period the previous year. The consensus in the markets was that it would remain at May's rate of 1.9 percent.

In light of Tuesday's news that inflation held steady at 2.6

percent in July, the earnings figures suggest pay packets have slightly more purchasing power than they had before. Should inflation ease back, as many economic forecasters predict, then wage increases could start to outstrip price rises, helping to shore up consumer demand at a crucial time when the British government is negotiating how the country will leave the EU. That hope helped the pound recover earlier losses to trade around \$1.2865.

"There is some cause for optimism that the squeeze on household finances could come to an end later this year,

though ultimately the light at the end of the tunnel could be provided by falling inflation rather than rising wages," said Ben Brettell, senior economist at stockbrokers Hargreaves Lansdown.

Last year's Brexit vote had an almost immediate impact on living standards. The 15 percent fall in the value of the pound stoked inflation by making imports like food and energy more expensive. Before the vote, wage increases were outstripping inflation, which was barely above zero.

The impact of the pound's drop has taken a while to make

itself felt in the British economy, potentially because consumers spent early in anticipation of higher prices to come. But prices did rise, retail sales, which are a crucial part of the British economy, weakened. As a result, economic growth has fallen from a quarterly rate of 0.7 percent in the fourth quarter of 2016 to 0.2 percent and 0.3 percent in the subsequent three-month periods. Another potential positive for the British economy is that unemployment has fallen to its lowest since 1975, to 4.4 percent in the three months to June from the 4.5 percent registered in May.—Reuters

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.759
Indian Rupees	4.746
Pakistani Rupees	2.870
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.971
Nepali Rupees	2.981
Singapore Dollar	223.020
Hongkong Dollar	38.695
Bangladesh Taka	3.737
Philippine Peso	5.988
Thai Baht	9.127

GCC COUNTRIES	
Saudi Riyal	80.787
Qatari Riyal	83.207
Omani Riyal	786.772
Bahraini Dinar	804.440
UAE Dirham	82.482

ARAB COUNTRIES	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	21.200
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	16.972
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.216
Tunisian Dinar	127.210
Jordanian Dinar	427.490
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.018
Syrian Lira	2.159
Morocco Dirham	32.414

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES	
US Dollar Transfer	302.750
Euro	356.940
Sterling Pound	395.540
Canadian dollar	239.710
Turkish lira	85.890

Swiss Franc	316.020
Australian Dollar	240.230
US Dollar Buying	301.550

GOLD	
20 Gram	249.070
10 Gram	127.450
5 Gram	64.570

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfr	Selling Rate
US Dollar	302.350
Canadian Dollar	238.735
Sterling Pound	393.881
Euro	357.792
Swiss Frank	295.188
Bahraini Dinar	801.788
UAE Dirhams	82.699
Qatari Riyals	83.925
Saudi Riyals	81.517
Jordanian Dinar	427.010
Egyptian Pound	17.045
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.974
Indian Rupees	4.720
Pakistani Rupees	2.869
Bangladesh Taka	3.742
Philippines Peso	5.911
Cyprus pound	17.991
Japanese Yen	3.759
Syrian Pound	1.589
Nepalese Rupees	2.946
Malaysian Ringgit	71.323

Chinese Yuan Renminbi	45.779
Thai Bhat	10.082
Turkish Lira	86.247

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.382871	0.392871
Czech Korune	0.005577	0.017577
Danish Krone	0.043709	0.048709
Euro	0.349873	0.358873
Norwegian Krone	0.034008	0.039206
Romanian Leu	0.077607	0.077607
Slovakia	0.009030	0.019030
Swedish Krona	0.033435	0.038435
Swiss Franc	0.304634	0.315634
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.228985	0.240985
New Zealand Dollar	0.212702	0.222202
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.231927	0.240927
Georgina Lari	0.124850	0.124850
US Dollars	0.298800	0.303220
US Dollars Mint	0.299300	0.303220
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003278	0.003862
Chinese Yuan	0.043807	0.047307

Hong Kong Dollar	0.036636	0.039386
Indian Rupee	0.004186	0.004874
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002651	0.002831
Korean Won	0.000255	0.000270
Malaysian Ringgit	0.066897	0.072897
Nepalese Rupee	0.003022	0.003192
Pakistan Rupee	0.002626	0.002916
Philippine Peso	0.005829	0.006129
Singapore Dollar	0.216020	0.226020
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001599	0.002179
Taiwan	0.009856	0.010036
Thai Baht	0.008757	0.009307
Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.796773	0.805273
Egyptian Pound	0.015274	0.021182
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000190	0.000250
Jordanian Dinar	0.422613	0.431613
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000151	0.000251
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020848	0.044848
Omani Riyal	0.780333	0.786013
Qatar Riyal	0.078909	0.083849
Saudi Riyal	0.079687	0.080987
Syrian Pound	0.001284	0.001504
Tunisian Dinar	0.122108	0.130108
Turkish Lira	0.081039	0.091339
UAE Dirhams	0.081043	0.082743
Yemeni Riyal	0.000984	0.001064

US HOUSING CONSTRUCTION SLUMPED IN JULY

WASHINGTON: US homebuilding unexpectedly fell in July as the construction of multi-family houses tumbled to a 10-month low, but strong job growth is expected to continue to support the housing market recovery. Housing starts declined 4.8 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.16 million units, hurt also by a drop in groundbreaking on single-family projects, the Commerce Department said yesterday.

June's sales pace was revised down to 1.21 million units from the previously reported 1.22 million units. Building permits dropped 4.1 percent, with the multi-family segment recording a drop of 11.2 percent. Permits for single-family homes were unchanged. The report tempered hopes of a sharp rebound in homebuilding investment after it fell in the second quarter at its steepest pace in nearly seven years.

"Soft July starts following on June's solid reading is a disappointment as we had expected housing to pick up more robustly from a soft second quarter," said Andrew Labelle, an economist at Citigroup in New York. "Still, we are inclined to look through some of the pullback as it was concentrated in generally lower value and more volatile multi-family."

Housing subtracted 0.27 percentage point from second-quarter gross domestic product. Economists had forecast groundbreaking activity to be little changed at a rate of 1.22 million units in July. Homebuilding fell 5.6 percent on a year-on-year basis.

Housing starts are well below their historic average of 1.5 million, a rate realtors say would eliminate an acute shortage of houses on the market that has driven up prices. Completions fell 6.2 percent to 1.18 million-pace last month. The PHLX housing index was trading higher, in line with a broadly firmer US stock market. Shares in the nation's largest

homebuilder, D R Horton, were little changed as were those of Lennar Corp Pulte group shares gained 0.31 percent. The dollar strengthened against a basket of currencies and prices for US government bonds rose marginally.

Modest growth

A separate report yesterday from the Mortgage Bankers Association showed applications for home loans fell last week. Single-family homebuilding, which accounts for the largest share of the housing market, slipped 0.5 percent to a rate of 856,000 units last month. Single-family starts rose in the Northeast and South but fell in the West and Midwest.

"We expect residential investment to keep moving up over time, although we believe the pace of growth will be modest," said Daniel Silver, an economist at JPMorgan in New York. Despite strong demand for housing, which is being driven by a labor market that is near full employment, groundbreaking on single-family housing projects has slowed since racing to near a 9-1/2-year high in February.

Homebuilders continue to complain they cannot find skilled labor, especially framers, and that buildable lots remain in short supply. Builders also say the costs of their materials are rising. Prices for building materials were increasing even before the US government slapped anti-subsidy duties on imports of Canadian softwood lumber in April. A survey on Tuesday showed confidence among homebuilders increased in August amid rising demand for new houses. Last month, starts for the volatile multi-family housing segment tumbled 15.3 percent to a rate of 299,000 units. Groundbreaking for buildings with five units or more plunged 17.1 percent to its lowest



This Wednesday, March 1, 2017, photo, a forklift is parked in front of one of the houses under construction in a housing plan in Zelienople, Pa. Yesterday the Commerce Department reports on U.S. home construction in July. —AP

level since September 2016. Multi-family homebuilding is slowing as apartment buildings flood the market, leading to a rise in the rental vacancy rate this year. "The recovery in the multi-family sector may

have played out and the sector is in the process of consolidating and finding a sustainable level of activity," said John Ryding, chief economist at RDQ Economics in New York. — Reuters



In this Tuesday, March 24, 2015, file photo, a traveler walks past a sign advertising a Delta Air Lines credit card at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport in SeaTac, Washington. —AP

AIRLINES MAKE IT HARDER TO EARN FREE FLIGHTS FOR LOYALTY

DALLAS: Airline loyalty programs are losing much of their allure even for frequent flyers, and the rules for navigating the system have changed. Flying is no longer the best way to earn miles or points. The biggest bang for your buck comes from signing up for the right credit card.

And those come-ons from the airline to sell you miles? Ignore them unless you are very close to a qualifying for a big trip. Frequent-flyer programs get relatively little attention from Wall Street, and their financial importance to the airlines is not widely understood by travelers, who just hope to earn a free flight now and then.

Airline profits are subject to vagaries like the price of fuel, the actions of competitors on key routes, even the weather. Amid all that uncertainty, the airlines have found a reliable source of revenue in selling miles to banks, which then use the miles to persuade consumers to sign up for the cards and use them as much as possible.

"The bottom line is that the business of selling miles is a very profitable one and has proven historically to be far less cyclical than the core airline," Joseph DeNardi, a Stifel analyst who tracks airlines, said this month in a note to clients. The downside for airline customers is that the world is awash in frequent-flyer miles, and the airlines are constantly making each mile, or point, less valuable. Many trips don't earn as many miles or points as they once did, and the price for claiming a reward flight keeps going up. In many cases, availability of reward seats on flights has gotten worse.

"It is harder to use miles at the price that people are expecting to pay," says Gary Leff, who writes the View from the Wing travel blog. Even for frequent flyers like Leff, a once-cherished benefit of the miles - using them to upgrade to first class - has been diminished because airlines sell more of those upgrades for cash.

That doesn't mean travelers shouldn't sign up for the airline programs. After all, there is no charge for joining. It does require rethinking how to earn, keep and redeem miles. Many of the strategies revolve around credit cards.

● Watch credit card offers for bonuses. Banks often offer the biggest bang.

JPMorgan Chase shook up the sector last year with a 100,000-mile bonus for signing up for the Sapphire Reserve card, which came with a hefty annual fee.

● Even if you make purchases with another card, consider getting the card of the airline you usually fly to enjoy benefits such as priority boarding and free bag-checking, even on so-called basic economy tickets. If you check a bag a few times a year, you will more than offset the annual fee.

● To stretch your miles, redeem them to fly midweek. Brian Karimzad of MileCards.com says it takes an average 30,574 miles for a Tuesday flight but 41,332 for a Sunday trip.

● Don't let miles expire. On American Airlines, which runs the biggest frequent-flyer program, you don't have to fly, you just have to make a purchase within 18 months on partners that range from other airlines to restaurants and flower shops. Miles on Delta Air Lines and JetBlue Airways don't expire.

● Ignore your airline when it sends yet another email asking if you'd like to buy miles. The exception is when you are just a few miles short of earning a big trip, says John DiScala, who runs the JohnnyJet.com travel website.

● Use 'em while you've got 'em. The value of your miles won't go up.

Airlines often raise the number of miles needed for certain flights, with United Airlines being the most recent example. Airlines used to announce big mile-price increases once every several years but now make smaller hikes more frequently. "Either way you're going to pay more three years from now," says Karimzad. Over the past several years, American, Delta, United and Southwest have all linked rewards to how much customers spend, not how many miles or flights they take. That means frequent-flyer programs are a better deal now for people who buy expensive tickets, such as business class. The change has put an end to "mileage runs," the cheap but long flights that die-hards would take just to puff up their frequent-flyer accounts. "It has weeded out a lot of people who were gaming it - you can't blame the airlines for wanting to do that," DiScala says, "but it stings as a consumer."

DRAGHI WILL NOT DELIVER FRESH POLICY STEER AT JACKSON HOLE

ANALYSTS WONDER HOW ECB IS GOING TO RECALIBRATE GROWTH

FRANKFURT: European Central Bank President Mario Draghi will not deliver a new policy message at the US Federal Reserve's Jackson Hole conference, two sources familiar with the situation said, tempering expectations for the bank to start charting the course out of stimulus.

An ECB spokesman said that Draghi will focus on the theme of the symposium, fostering a dynamic global economy, in his Aug. 25 remarks, while the sources added that he was keen to hold off on the policy discussion until the autumn, as agreed at the last rate-setting meeting in July. Expectations for the speech had been building in recent weeks with investors pointing to next Friday's event as the likely kick off in the ECB's debate how to recalibrate monetary policy given solid growth, rapidly falling unemployment but persistently weak underlying inflation.

In 2014, the last time Draghi spoke at Jackson Hole, considered the world's top central banking get-together, he laid the foundations for the ECB's quantitative easing scheme, also fuelling

expectations for a major speech this year.

"Expectations that this will be a big monetary policy speech are wrong," one of the sources said. Another source said while the speech was initially seen as an ideal slot for a major address, Draghi told rate setters at the last policy meeting that he would honour the Governing Council's decision to hold off on the discussion until the autumn.

Draghi may have decided to skip the Jackson Hole opportunity as markets interpreted his speech at a similar conference in Sintra, Portugal very differently than the ECB hoped, sending markets on a rollercoaster and instilling an added sense of caution at the bank. Draghi then hoped to strike a balanced tone but noted that better growth would provide increased support to the economy, letting the ECB claw back its own stimulus to keep the overall level of accommodation broadly unchanged.

That was seen as a hawkish message, paving the way to reducing and then ending asset pur-

chases. The ECB's asset buys, aimed at reviving inflation, expire at the end of the year but policymakers from the 19-country currency bloc agreed last month to put off talks on the next steps for now, keeping their timetable intentionally vague and giving themselves a wide window between September and December to decide. Policymakers speaking to Reuters on condition of anonymity earlier said that October is the likely date for the most substantial decision given the incoming data schedule, particularly on wages.

The ECB's big dilemma is that while the euro zone economy has grown for 17th straight quarters and employment is rising faster than expected, wage growth remains anaemic, keeping a lid on consumer prices. Economists are now trying to figure out whether wages are showing an unexpectedly delayed response or whether wage setting dynamics may have fundamentally changed in the post-crisis, globalized economy. — Reuters

\$1BN TOWER LIFTS SAN FRANCISCO SKYLINE TO NEW HEIGHTS

SAN FRANCISCO: More than 60 stories above the ground, construction workers climb makeshift stairs and cross narrow steel planks to put the finishing touches on Salesforce Tower, now San Francisco's tallest building. The \$1.1 billion skyscraper has already changed the city's iconic skyline, towering over old favorites like Coit Tower and the Transamerica Pyramid. Unlike in New York and Chicago, the new 1,070-foot (326-meter) high-rise is a gargantuan presence in this liberal West Coast city.

Salesforce Tower and a massive adjoining transit center also embody a larger transition in San Francisco - one that pits the technology industry against the city's charming neighborhoods. Tech giant Salesforce.com, which provides online software for business, bought the naming rights to the 61-story steel and concrete building, adding to concerns that the tech economy is steamrolling through the city.

"All the tech and people the industry is bringing in - you can work two jobs and barely make a living for your rent and other costs," said Saul Ramirez, 25, who commutes over an hour daily to his San Francisco restaurant job from San Pablo after high rent pushed him from the city. Salesforce Tower is City Hall's golden child, but the edifice has had to defend itself from the start. Former mayor and US Sen. Dianne Feinstein has said she's annoyed the skyscraper soars far above the downtown height limits she pushed for in the 1970s and '80s.

Salesforce Tower is more than 200 feet (60 meters) taller than the Transamerica Pyramid, which previously was San Francisco's tallest building. "A lot of people think that the city's defining characteristics are the hills, the water and the blue skies," said John King, urban design critic for the San Francisco Chronicle. Salesforce will occupy more than half of the building's square footage, while consulting and investment powerhouses like Bain & Company, CBRE and Accenture will lease a portion of the remaining space. When the connecting Salesforce Transit Center opens, developers estimate the bus, train and promised high-speed rail station will serve 100,000 passengers on an average weekday.

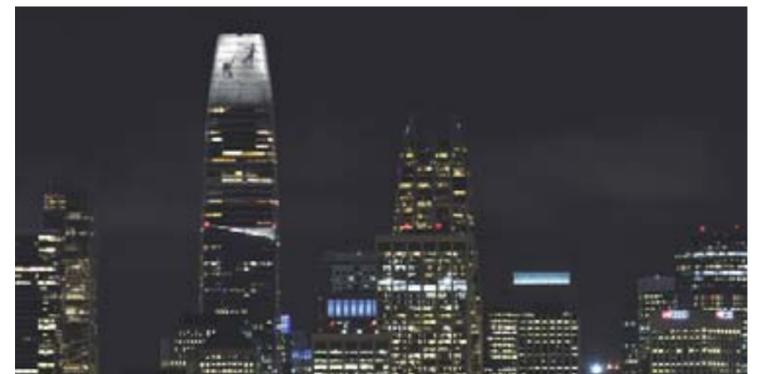
Skyline

"Cities evolve and change and grow everywhere in the world," said Boston Properties senior project manager Mirjam Link, noting the corporate high-rise will house up to 6,000 employees after construction wraps up in October. Fred Werner, lead instructor of the Architectural Foundation of San Francisco, said he loves both the city's natural landscape and its skyline. San Francisco still has many areas with strict height limits, and concentrating growth in urban centers is the best way to accommodate an influx of people, Werner said.

Kate Borden, a 17-year San Francisco resident, has become a fan as she's watched the tower go up from her apartment window. "It actually ends up reflecting the sunset, and I think it's really

beautiful," said Borden, 37. Salesforce Tower and Los Angeles' Wilshire Grand Center are competing for the title of "tallest building west of Chicago," a designation the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat has yet to award. The 1,100-foot (335-meter) Los Angeles high-rise wins by sheer height, but some argue its 295-foot (90-meter) decorative spire shouldn't count. The top of Salesforce Tower has generated

controversy of its own, with nine unoccupied floors set aside as canvas for LED artist Jim Campbell to display low-resolution images captured throughout the day by cameras placed around the city. The electronic art display will be like a "carnival in the sky," said San Francisco Planning Commissioner Kathrin Moore, who believes the art makes the high-rise look like a children's playground. —AP



SAN FRANCISCO: The outline of two dancers captured mid-motion is displayed on a nine-storey electronic art installation atop the \$1.1 billion under-construction Salesforce Tower. — AP

AUB MAKES DREAM COME TRUE WITH KD 250,000 GRAND PRIZE

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank recently conducted its Al Hassad Islamic account weekly draw, Kuwait's leading sharia-compliant rewards program that offers a broad range of prizes to the largest number of winners. The account provides 26 weekly prizes that are comprised of KD 25,000 as a grand prize and 25 other prizes valued at KD 1,000 each. AUB also offers four quarterly prizes that are valued at KD 250,000 to each winner allowing them to achieve their dreams of travelling, studying abroad, or owning their dream home or car.

On this occasion Ahli United Bank announced, "With this draw, we are adding 26 new winners and prizes to the Al-Hassad Islamic account whereby, the total number of winners annually will include more than 1300. The weekly grand prize winner of KD 25,000 — Ahmed Ali Hussain.

25 other winners won prizes of KD 1,000 and are as follows: Amal Abdulaheem Bahbahaneh, Khalil Ali Haji, Manal Khalaf, Wamiyah M H Al Ajmi, Altaf Faisal Al-Senafi, Ali Abdulrahman Al-Bader, Anwar Mohammad Zaid, Layla Mubarak Al-Wazan, Hussain Mahmood Abdulla, Suhail Ahmed Amanullah, Saleemah Marzouq Al-Dhafaeri,

Ali Mohd Kayed, Mirza Jaleel Ahmad, Hedayah Hadian Salamah, Ebrahim Y M H Al-Failakawi, Raed Jassem Rashed, Mohammad Sajed Ibrahim, Abdulrhman Bader Al-Wadi, Abdulaheem A Yousef, Ahmed Ali Al-Hawalah, A Nabi Ismaeel Ali, Abdulla Saleh Janahi, Mohammed Saeed, Mohamed A Jalil Ebrahim, A Hussain Omran Ahmad.

Ahli United Bank added, "There are increased opportunities that await our current customers and those who are interested in opening an Al-Hassad Islamic account to benefit from the wide range of prizes and opportunities offered this year." Al-Hassad Islamic account's customers in Kuwait and Bahrain are eligible to participate in the draw in line with the program's terms and conditions.

Individual customers can open their accounts with a minimum deposit of KD 100, qualifying them to enter the draw. For every KD 50 deposited in the account, customers are given one chance to enter the quarterly draw. They must have held the minimum deposit requirement for at least two weeks prior to the draw date. The more deposits made, the higher the chances of winning on a weekly basis.



In this Tuesday, Aug 15, 2017 photo taken from video, locals exit a shopping arcade during an island-wide power blackout. Taiwan's economy minister has resigned after a generator failure at a power plant caused a massive blackout that affected millions of households across the island during sweltering heat. —AP

WEAKER EURO, STRONGER GROWTH LIFT EUROPE SHARES

LONDON: European shares were on track for their best week since late April yesterday, gaining almost 1 percent on forecast-beating growth data, rising metals prices and a weakening euro. US stocks were also set to open some 0.2 percent higher, index futures suggested. Metals markets were buoyant, with the price of zinc, used to galvanize steel, hitting its highest in a decade on Chinese infrastructure demand and boosting mining company shares.

The pan-European STOXX 600 index rose 0.8 percent, led by basic resources companies and energy firms, building further on Monday's 1.1 percent rise as European equities recovered from their worst week this year triggered by a nuclear

standoff between the United States and North Korea. However, with tensions over the Korean peninsula waning, helping lift Asian shares in the past two days, investors have re-focused on fundamentals. Data yesterday showed the eurozone economy expanded by more than previously forecast in the second quarter, compared with the same period last year, while annual growth in Italy was at its fastest since 2011.

Stronger economic growth is part of the reason global active funds remain overwhelmingly positive on European equities, the biggest consensus overweight position according to Barclays' analysis of investor flows. "The market mindset is that Europe is recovering from a very deep, very long recession

that hit at its financial core," said Christopher Peel, chief investment officer at Tavistock Wealth.

The fall in the euro against the dollar would also be a boon to European companies, making their exports cheaper and potentially lifting earnings. BlackRock, the world's biggest asset manager, warned in a note earlier this week that a stronger euro could slow the pace of earnings growth, adding that the ratio of earnings estimates upgrades to downgrades in Europe had fallen to a one-year low.

Performance

The euro is the best performing major currency versus the dollar this year - up 11.5 percent so far.

However, it took a hit yesterday after a Reuters report that European Central Bank chief Mario Draghi would not use next week's annual gathering of central bankers in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, to signal policy changes. The report, citing two sources familiar with the situation, dashed expectations that Draghi would begin to chart a course out of the ECB's massive stimulus program.

The euro fell as low as \$1.1691 and was last down 0.3 percent on the day at \$1.1703, some 2 percent below a 2 1/2-year peak of \$1.1911 touched earlier this month. The dollar rose 0.1 percent against a basket of currencies, holding most of Tuesday's gains chalked up on the biggest rise in US retail sales in seven months. The yen, which rose as tension over the Korean peninsula intensified last week, fell 0.1 percent to 110.78 per dollar. Sterling rose almost half a cent after data showed UK wages rising faster than expected in the three months to June before giving up most of those gains. It last traded flat on the day at \$1.2867.

The strong US retail sales data slightly boosted expectations that the Federal Reserve will raise interest rates for a third time this year. The Fed releases the minutes of its July policy meeting at 1800 GMT and they will be pored over for clues as to how the debate over the policy outlook is developing. The Fed kept interest rates unchanged last month and said it expected to start winding down "relatively soon" its massive holdings of bonds, bought in an effort to boost the economy.

"Most people are looking for a final hint that the Fed will start the balance sheet normalization process next month, and perhaps give us some clue about the next rate hike as well," said ING strategist Martin van Vliet. Britain's pound recovered from

its lowest levels against the euro in 10 months yesterday after data showed wages rising faster than expected in the three months to June, closing the gap to headline inflation.

Analysts had called for earnings to rise by as much as 1.8 percent and the 2.1 percent jump, along with a surprise drop in the number of unemployed in July, pushed sterling almost half a cent higher to trade at \$1.2896. That was still just 0.2 percent higher on the day. Against the euro, it gained 0.3 percent on the day to 90.88 pence, recovering from lows of 91.44 pence since last October's flash crash. Wage growth has tended to run well shy of price increases in recent years, deepening the pain for British households struggling with government budget cuts and undermining economic growth.

"This is undoubtedly good news for the man on the street, as it suggests that inflation pressures are starting to ease for consumers," said Jake Trask, FX research director with OFX in London. "However, it is important not to bet the house based on this number. There is no immediate need for the Bank of England to sanction tighter monetary policy...The pay gains are strong but the policy makers still need to be cautious."

Monster zinc

Zinc rose 2.5 percent to as high as \$3,037 a ton, its highest since late 2007. Copper rose 1.3 percent to \$6,464 a ton. "There (was) a fair level of skepticism at the start of the year when China's infrastructure projects were announced but we're seeing much better-than-expected growth in fixed asset investment," said analyst Daniel Hynes of ANZ in Sydney. —Reuters

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report						
Wednesday 16 August 2017						
Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing			
Price Index	▲ 10.45	6,854.12	6,843.66			
Weighted Index	▼ -0.35	424.18	424.53			
KSX 15	▼ -3.97	968.62	972.59			

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
IPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	390	▲ 0.0
NAPESCO	897	852	9,569	8,154	4	897	▼ -2.0
ENERGYH	35.5	35.5	28,025	995	4	35.5	▲ 0.0
GPI	38.1	37.2	763,903	28,952	32	38.1	▲ 0.6
ABAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	75	▲ 0.0
Oil & Gas			801,487	38,190	40	1048.61	▼ -4.40
KFOUC	290	285	178,140	51,103	22	288	▲ 8.0
BPCC	570	569	260,801	148,648	7	569	▼ -1.0
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	600	▲ 0.0
ALQURAIN	348	341	17,591	6,001	11	341	▼ -1.0
Basic Materials			456,532	205,790	40	1256.44	▲ 1.10
KCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	420	▲ 0.0
CABLE	490	483	101,000	49,170	18	488	▲ 6.0
SHIP	215	213	74,456	15,934	14	213	▼ -1.0
PCEM	990	970	7,155	6,950	3	980	▼ -5.0
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	280	▲ 0.0
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	94	▲ 0.0
ADCO	267	264	38,661	10,272	4	267	▲ 7.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	208	▲ 0.0
NCSM	189	175	140,000	25,730	10	175	▲ 0.0
EQUIPMENT	48.0	45.2	362,150	17,868	16	47.5	▲ 1.7
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	▲ 0.0
GYPBOM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95	▲ 0.0
SALBOOKH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	80	▲ 0.0
AGLY	849	841	491,334	414,887	78	849	▲ 0.0
EDU	355	347	21,487	7,480	3	347	▼ -1.0
CLEANING	45.5	45.0	135,000	6,203	4	45.5	▲ 0.0
KSL	61	58	30,030	1,164	2	61	▲ 0.0
KMPC	145	145	10,000	1,450	2	145	▲ 0.0
HUMANISOFT	4,350	4,200	88,396	379,871	19	4,300	▲ 0.0
NAFAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	195	▲ 0.0
GFC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	75	▲ 0.0
SHOOTING	27.5	26.7	673,120	18,109	27	27.5	▲ 0.5
CGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	568	▲ 0.0
MTCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	56	▲ 0.0
UPAG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	770	▲ 0.0
ALAFCO	371	356	304,908	117,863	47	369	▼ -1.0
MUBARRAD	71	70	248,370	17,489	16	71	▼ -0.2
LOGISTICS	53	52	1,236,305	64,792	58	52	▼ -0.5
SCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	77	▲ 0.0
GCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	80	▲ 0.0
QIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	81	▲ 0.0
KCEM	78	76	186,827	14,256	33	78	▲ 1.9
RKWC	81	81	10,000	810	1	81	▼ -2.0
SPEC	94	92	70,300	6,475	4	94	▲ 0.0
Industrials			4,257,209	1,978,354	357	1962.14	▼ -1.30
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	▲ 0.0
CATL	250	240	116,084	28,623	12	250	▲ 10.0
DANAH	71	70	172,500	12,141	8	70	▼ -0.1
FOOD	2,000	2,000	500	1,000	1	2,000	▼ -38.0
Consumer Goods			289,984	41,764	21	1010.38	▼ -8.20
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	480	▲ 0
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,190	▲ 0
YIACO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	175	▲ 0
Health Care			0	0	0	0.00	▲ 0.00
KCN	1,390	1,250	3	4	3	1,250	▼ -140
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	250	▲ 0
SULTAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	87	▲ 0
CABLETV	34.9	34.9	1,006	35	1	34.9	▲ 2
EYAS	845	845	271	229	1	845	▼ -5
IFAHR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	275	▲ 0
OLUFUEL	127	123	170,950	21,332	32	126	▲ 0
MUNTAZAHAT	77	73	197,973	14,594	9	73	▼ -3
JAZERA	574	570	2,518	1,440	2	574	▼ -1
BOOR	124	123	27,958	3,441	13	123	▼ -1
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	116	▲ 0
ALRAI	127	126	150	19	2	127	▲ 1
Jiyad	53	49.0	45,109	2,214	5	53	▼ 0
Mazzan	870	790	1,628,485	1,311,284	115	815	▼ -42
Consumer Services			2,074,483	1,354,592	183	1044.58	▼ -18.20
ZAIN	505	495	11,219,818	5,612,701	462	505	▲ 9
OOREDOO	1,200	1,165	29,985	35,048	15	1,190	▲ 15
AAN	40.0	38.1	350,100	13,409	8	40.0	▲ 1
VIVA	803	801	38,133	30,587	38	802	▼ -1
Telecommunications			11,638,836	5,691,804	523	616.91	▲ 6.00
NBK	737	726	2,892,497	1,970,690	190	729	▼ -7
GBK	246	245	740,000	181,450	29	245	▼ -2
CBK	360	355	88,832	31,882	4	359	▲ 3
ABK	316	306	76,919	24,173	2	316	▼ -2
ALMUTAHED	419	416	106,930	44,693	7	416	▼ -2
KIB	245	245	65,110	20,852	9	245	▲ 0
BURG	372	370	106,449	39,509	7	370	▲ 0
KFN	574	566	3,656,040	2,085,299	222	569	▼ -1
BOUBAYAN	438	427	1,113,935	485,034	105	431	▲ 5
AUB	218	216	5,279,026	1,144,483	122	217	▼ -1
ITHMR	30.4	30.7	2,181,450	84,852	95	30.8	▼ -1
WARBANK	268	265	1,275,027	330,624	123	266	▼ -1
Banks			17,402,215	6,452,551	915	954.17	▼ -3.00
KNS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	250	▲ 0
GINS	790	720	11,000	8,040	3	790	▲ 70.0
AINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	448	▲ 0.0
WINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	96	▲ 0.0
KUWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	187	▲ 0.0
FTI	81	81	1,000	81	1	81	▲ 1.0
WETHAQ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	51	▲ 0.0
BKQWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	▲ 0.0
Insurance			12,000	8,181	4	1121.86	▲ 23.90

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
SOKOUK	49.5	46.4	453,665	218,637	116	49.5	▲ 3.0
KRE	64	63	271,967	17,282	8	64	▲ 0.1
URC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	88	▲ 0.0
NRE	122	120	574,331	69,600	21	121	▼ -1.0
SRE	308	365	20,500	7,484	4	365	▼ -3.0
TAM	400	360	55,500	20,550	6	400	▼ -8.0
AREEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	153	▲ 0.0
MASSALEH	41.0	40.1	905,000	36,367	16	40.9	▲ 0.8
ARABREC	34.9	34.3	485,100	16,677	17	34.8	▲ 0.7
ERESCO	39.9	39.8	250,000	9,951	5	39.8	▼ -0.4
MABANEE	788	780	224,161	175,208	29	785	▲ 1.0
INUZZAT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	89	▲ 0.0
INVESTORS	24.0	24.0	153,892	3,693	7	24.0	▲ 0.2
IRC	32.9	32.9	3,000	99	1	32.9	▲ 1.0
ALTUARIA	89	87	5,767,319	508,264	101	88	▲ 0.0
SANAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	42.0	▲ 0.0
AAYANRE	81	81	122,500	9,923	3	81	▲ 0.0
AGAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	71	▲ 0.0
ALADARIA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	39.7	▲ 0.0
MAZAYA	113	112	1,139,832	128,784	31	113	▼ -1.0
THEMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	70	▲ 0.0
TUJARA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	54	▲ 0.0
TAAMEER	34.9	34.4	194,593	6,703	5	34.9	

INFINITI AL-BABTAIN GRANTS ONE TIME OFFER ON INFINITI QX70 FOR 2 DAYS

KUWAIT: Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Co (AABC), the sole authorized dealer of Infiniti vehicles in the State of Kuwait, is offering the Infiniti QX70 - a luxury car that speaks to the aesthetically inclined and adventurous - for a special price that is available for two days only. The exclusive offer that ends on 19 August 2017 comes as a once in a lifetime opportunity for customers to explore distinctive design features that combine elements of a sports car and an SUV.

Famed for its iconic design credentials, the Infiniti QX70 is a cross-over built with balance, aerodynamics and expression in mind. As the large 20-inch alloy wheels not only complement the graceful

proportions of the QX70, they are designed to make handling more responsive.

A sports car inspired approach, customers can set their desired speed and distance and intelligent cruise control (Full-Speed Range) and can automatically adjust speed in slowing traffic. Additionally, the climate-controlled, leather appointed front seats actively circulate cool or warm air through small perforations so one can reach their comfort zone. Adapting to different temperatures, the Advanced Climate Control System adjusts without asking. Constantly monitoring the incoming air, it senses outside fumes and automatically closes the vents, recirculating purified air throughout the interior.

To ensure comfort on every level, the seat belt is one of the few surfaces to continually touch, so Infiniti uses a variable herringbone weave that is 20 percent softer than standard fabrics.

As the original sport crossover with bold design, the QX70 is backed by a 3.7-LITER V6 gasoline engine delivering a stirring 329 horsepower. The 7-speed automatic transmission offers a wide selection of gears for versatile performance and enhanced fuel economy. Infiniti Al-Babtain welcomes all its customers to take advantage of this exclusive deal and visit the Infiniti showroom located in Al-Rai that opens every day except Fridays.

Al-Babtain Group was founded in 1948, to present

a model of honesty, integrity and total dedication, gaining a solid reputation in the State of Kuwait and the Middle East area. Today, Al-Babtain Group has licensing rights for some of the world's leading brands stretching the globe from the USA to the Far East. For more than 60 years, Al-Babtain Group has experienced continued success and a large measure of this success came from the Group's advanced flexible management style and long-term vision. These astounding results were achieved due to a versatile strategic formula focusing on growth amongst its sphere of activities; including automotive, technology, investment, information technology, industrial and Finance.



GULF AIR, AEGEAN AIRLINES INK CODESHARE AGREEMENT

MANAMA: Gulf Air, the national carrier of the Kingdom of Bahrain, and Aegean Airlines, Greece's largest carrier, have entered into a codeshare partnership widening their respective networks across Europe and the Middle East.

Specifically, travellers can now codeshare on flights from Bahrain, via Athens, to and from the European cities of Brussels and Rome while travellers from Geneva, Milan and Vienna can now codeshare on flights, via Athens, to the Kingdom of Bahrain with Gulf Air. Ahmed Janahi, Gulf Air Chief Commercial Officer, said: "Our commitment to strengthening Gulf Air's network is reinforced with this codeshare agreement - allowing us to connect our passengers to popular destinations across Europe that extend beyond our network, while giving passengers from more cities in Europe the distinctive opportunity to visit the Kingdom of Bahrain while experiencing our unique product and service offering."

"We are welcoming this new codeshare with Gulf Air and we strongly believe that the combined networks of our two carriers will offer our guests new travel opportunities not only between Greece and Bahrain, but also beyond," stated Tassos Raftopoulos, Network Planning and Alliances Director of Aegean Airlines.

The national carrier operates a year-round direct four weekly service between Bahrain and the Greek capital in addition to operating double daily flights or more to ten regional cities across the GCC and MENA region - allowing passengers to easily and conveniently transit through Bahrain for seamless onwards travel across the Gulf Air

network. Gulf Air, the national carrier of the Kingdom of Bahrain, commenced operations in 1950, becoming one of the first commercial airlines established in the Middle East. Today, Gulf Air is a major international carrier serving 42 cities in 25 countries spanning three continents.

The airline operates double daily flights or more to 10 regional cities, in addition to select destinations in the Indian Subcontinent and Europe, from its hub at Bahrain International Airport. Gulf Air currently serves all its destinations with a combination wide and narrow body fleet totalling 28 modern aircraft with orders for 39 new Boeing and Airbus aircraft due for delivery commencing in early 2018. The modern fleet will herald a new era for Gulf Air as it continues to enhance its product and service offering. Renowned for its traditional Arabian hospitality, evidenced by the airline's signature family and business friendly products, Gulf Air is committed to being an industry leader and developing products and services that reflect the evolving needs and aspirations of its passengers. Gulf Air connects Bahrain to the world and, as such, is a key national infrastructure asset, serving as a powerful driver for the economy and supporting the Kingdom's on-going economic growth.

Gulf Air has been the Title Sponsor of the FORMULA 1 GULF AIR BAHRAIN GRAND PRIX ever since it made history as the first Formula 1 Grand Prix to be held in the Middle East in 2004. In addition, the airline has been Official Carrier of the biennial Bahrain International Airshow since it was first held in 2010.

AL-MAZAYA HOLDING AMONG TOP 10 LISTED FIRMS FOR CORP GOVERNANCE AMONG FASTEST IN SUBMITTING DISCLOSURE REPORTS: CMA

KUWAIT: Al-Mazaya Holding has been ranked among the top 10 out of 233 listed companies in Kuwait for the second consecutive year that boast the most robust and transparent corporate governance system for 2017.

This comes in a report released by the Kuwait's Capital Markets Authority (CMA), where the top 10 companies that have proved among the fastest firms in submitting their governance reports are named.

Al-Mazaya occupied an advanced position among 233 firms, the ranking of which is based on corporate governance metrics that gauge compliance with accountability, transparency, disclosure and commitment to submission of governance and transparency reports within the legal grace period set by CMA.

The enviable position held by Al-Mazaya Holding is attributable to its unwavering commitment to the guiding governance directives issued by different official and state-run authorities. The company takes a sophisticated approach to risk management, internally and externally, and relies on corporate governance principles and criteria that ensure high yields.

The top ranking undoubtedly corroborates Al-Mazaya Holding's commitment to corporate governance rules and principles that fall in line with best international practices.

The best of its kind

Al-Mazaya Holding's governance regime is considered among the best of its kind thanks to the set of plans the company has developed to ensure business development with integrated and internationally acclaimed frameworks and criteria. Such globally recognized practices and criteria have set the company as a model to be copied for corporate governance commitment and transparency by applying a set of rules and regulations that ensure institutional discipline, success and transparency.

Al-Mazaya Holding consistently seeks the best interests of its shareholders, and endeavors to regularly develop its business portfolio despite the challenges it faces to maintain its commitment to governance laws. These challenges include high-performance levels, and proper business regulations and structuring,



creating a favorable investment environment and appropriate regulation of financial returns - which are all essential prerequisites for weathering business headwinds and helping ensure sound performance management across all its platforms.

The CMA's report aims to meet the growing need for a successful capital market in the country by ensuring ideal enforcement of all relevant laws, and application of outstanding practices and criteria. The report also underlines the CMA's pioneering role in leading the efforts made to guarantee the best governance practices and criteria in Kuwait.

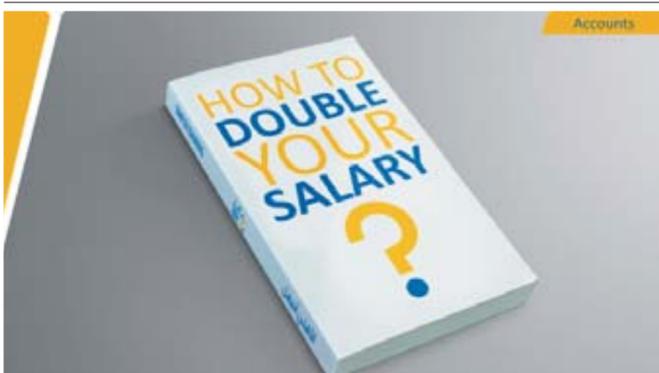
Performance

It's noteworthy that CMA has been following up the performance of all companies concerned with the application of corporate

governance principles and called upon them to show full commitment to governance directives in compliance with Law 7 for the year 2010 and its executive regulations to secure their own and their shareholders' best interests.

Through its e-portal, the CMA streamlines all relevant procedures and stamps out all obstacles encountered by the companies concerned while applying the required governance transparency and disclosure reports within the deadline.

Furthermore, CMA has been keen to recognize and highlight the positive efforts made by those companies which honor CMA's requirements through its press releases in a sign of good faith and collaboration that reflects its keenness to ensure corporate governance principles.



ABK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 'DOUBLE YOUR SALARY' DRAWS

KUWAIT: Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) held its 'Double Your Salary' weekly draw on 1st - 8th August, 2017 at the Bank's Head Office in the presence of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce, announcing the names of the winners. The promotion includes weekly draws for existing and new ABK customers. The campaign will run until 30th September, 2017.

The winners are:

* Salah Noshi Abdulaleem Harb, Galleria Complex Branch

* Mohammed Aref AlEnezi, Jahra 2 Branch

* Muhialdeen Atiya Hasan Saleh, Salmiya Branch

* Eidah Shareef Ahmad Al-Shatti, Hadiya Branch

New customers who transfer their salary to ABK receive KD 300 and will automatically be entered into the weekly draws to double their salaries. Existing customers who are already transferring their salary to ABK are entered into a separate draw.

KFH ANNOUNCES CARDS SUMMER CAMPAIGN 10TH DRAW WINNERS

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) announced 7 winners of the 10th draw of the new banking cards summer campaign themed "Get Back Double the Value of your Purchases". The campaign was launched in an attempt to encourage clients to use KFH credit, pre-paid and debit cards while making purchases in Kuwait and overseas.

The winners are: Mohamad Abullah Alrawdan, Dhari Alazmi, Fahad Alsubaei, Hessa Alrabea, Khaled Al-Sanousi, Rusli Buresli and Mansour Alazmi

The campaign that lasts for 120 days gives KFH customers chances to enter draw to win double cashback up to KD 2,000 daily. KFH Credit and Prepaid cards used for domestic and international purchases and KFH Debit cards used for international purchases are eligible for the draw. For every KD 1 spent locally earns 1 chance and every KD 1 spent internationally earn 3 chances to enter the daily draw.

This campaign is part of KFH efforts to reward its clients and grant them additional value; thus achieving customer satisfaction

and boosting their confidence. The campaign also aims at enhancing the bank's presence especially that it dominates the largest market share in the field of banking cards.

KFH strives to continuously offer

KFH marketing campaigns play a significant role in underlining KFH's principles that include boosting sales, and benefitting clients and merchants. It is worth noting that KFH has won several awards in



its clients new promotions and discounts in order to distinguish them among peers, not to mention to further bolster bank's leading position in the field of banking cards.

the field of banking cards which reiterates its success and efficiency in banking cards market. KFH enjoys high confidence and leadership in the market in addition to

high quality products which have enabled it to achieve growth in cards market and increase the number of customers.

high quality products which have enabled it to achieve growth in cards market and increase the number of customers.

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

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

KFH's mission is to achieve highest levels of excellence and innovation in the field of client service, while developing common interest for all those concerned with the financial institution. KFH's vision is to spearhead the global development in Islamic financial services, and to upgrade the bank into the level of becoming the most sustainable profitable Islamic bank in the world.

PROFIT EXPECTATIONS TURN LOWER AS CASH BALANCE REMAINS HIGH BOFAML GLOBAL FUND MANAGER SURVEY

KUWAIT: BofA Merrill Lynch August Fund Manager Survey finds profit expectations turned lower as cash balances remained high. Average cash balance remained steady at 4.9 percent globally, still above the past 10-year average of 4.5 percent; European investors' cash weighting rose to 5.3 percent, the highest reading since March 2003.

Only net 33 percent of investors think corporate profits will improve over the next 12 months, down 25ppt from January and the lowest level since November 2015.

For the second straight month,

investors cite the top two biggest tail risks to the market to be a policy mistake by the Fed/ECB (22 percent) and a crash in global bond markets (19 percent).

The impact of the Fed balance-sheet reduction in 2017 will be a non-event, say 48 percent of investors surveyed; 31 percent think any decrease would be a risk-off event, pushing bond yields higher and equities lower.

Concern over the impact of central bank tightening reflects investors' views on inflation; in a new question this month, 43 percent of those surveyed indicated they thought low inflation was

structural. The percentage of investors expecting a Goldilocks scenario of above-trend growth and below-trend inflation rose 6ppt to 42 percent, a record high; 46 percent expect secular stagnation, down 1ppt from last month. Net 49 percent of investors surveyed would be most surprised to see a recession in the next 6 months; Net 28 percent find an equity bubble to be the least surprising event.

Net 46 percent of respondents - a record high - say equity markets are overvalued. For the fourth straight month, Long Nasdaq (31 percent) tops the list of what fund managers think is the most

crowded trade, followed this month by short USD and long Eurozone equities.

China 3-year GDP growth estimates rose to 5.8 percent, the highest level since April 2016. Investors continue to favor banks, technology, pharma, insurance and industrials; avoided sectors include utilities, telecoms, staples and energy.

"Investors' expectations of corporate profits have taken an ominous turn this year," said Michael Hartnett, chief investment strategist, "which is a warning sign for equities over bonds, high yield over investment grade, and cyclical sectors over defensive ones. Further deterioration

is likely to cause risk-off trades."

Ronan Carr, European equity strategist, added that, "fund managers are holding on to cash at a stubbornly high level. Even so, European investors are positive on the growth outlook in the region but are moderating EPS expectations." Note: BofAML's August Global Fund Manager Survey was conducted Aug 4-10; 202 panelists with \$587 billion AUM participated total. 174 participants with \$521 billion AUM responded to the Global FMS questions and 91 participants with \$207 billion AUM responded to the regional FMS questions.

HOW ATTACKERS HIDE BACKDOOR IN SOFTWARE USED BY COMPANIES

DUBAI: Kaspersky Lab experts have discovered a backdoor planted in a server management software product used by hundreds of large businesses around the world. When activated, the backdoor allows attackers to download further malicious modules or steal data. Kaspersky Lab has alerted NetSarang, the vendor of the affected software, and it has promptly removed the malicious code and released an update for customers.

ShadowPad is one of the largest known supply-chain attacks. Had it not been detected and patched so quickly, it could potentially have targeted hundreds of organizations worldwide.

In July, 2017 Kaspersky Lab's Global Research and Analysis (GREAT) team was approached by one of its partners - a financial institution. The organization's security specialists were worried about suspicious DNS (domain name server) requests originating on a system involved in the processing of financial transactions. Further investigation showed that the source of these requests was server management software produced by a legitimate company and used by hundreds of customers in industries like financial services, education, telecoms, manufacturing, energy and transportation. The most worrying finding was the fact that the vendor did not

mean for the software to make these requests.

Further Kaspersky Lab analysis showed that the suspicious requests were actually the result of the activity of a malicious module hidden inside a recent version of the legitimate software. Following the installation of an infected software update, the malicious module would start sending DNS-queries to specific domains (its command and control server) at a frequency of once every eight hours. The request would contain basic information about the victim system (user name, domain name, host name). If the attackers considered the system to be "interesting", the command server would reply and activate a fully-fledged backdoor platform that would silently deploy itself inside the attacked computer. After that, on command from the attackers, the backdoor platform would be able to download and execute further malicious code.

Following the discovery, Kaspersky Lab researchers immediately contacted NetSarang. The company reacted fast and released an updated version of the software without the malicious code.

So far, according to Kaspersky Lab research, the malicious module has been activated in Hong Kong, but it could be lying dormant on many other systems worldwide, especially if the users have

not installed the updated version of the affected software.

While analyzing the techniques used by the attackers, Kaspersky Lab researchers came to the conclusion that some of them are very similar to ones used previously by the PlugX and Winnti groups, which are known to be Chinese-speaking cyber espionage groups. This information, however, is not enough to establish a precise connection to these actors.

"ShadowPad is an example of how dangerous and wide-scale a successful supply-chain attack can be. Given the opportunities for reach and data collection it gives to the attackers, most likely it will be reproduced again and again with some other widely used software component. Luckily NetSarang was fast to react to our notification and released a clean software update, most likely preventing hundreds of data stealing attacks against its clients. However, this case shows that large companies should rely on advanced solutions capable of monitoring network activity and detecting anomalies. This is where you can spot malicious activity even if the attackers were sophisticated enough to hide their malware inside legitimate software," said Igor Soumenkov, security expert, Global Research and

Analysis Team, Kaspersky Lab.

NetSarang Statement

"To combat the ever-changing landscape of cyber attacks NetSarang has incorporated various methods and measures to prevent our line of products from being compromised, infected, or utilized by cyber espionage groups. Regrettably, the Build release of our full line of products on July 18th, 2017 was unknowingly shipped with a backdoor which had the potential to be exploited by its creator. The security of our customers and user base is our highest priority and ultimately, our responsibility. The fact that malicious groups and entities are utilizing commercial and legitimate software for illicit gain is an ever-growing concern and one that NetSarang, as well as others in the computer software industry, is taking very seriously.

NetSarang is committed to its users' privacy and has incorporated a more robust system to ensure that never again will a compromised product be delivered to its users. NetSarang will continue to evaluate and improve our security not only to combat the efforts of cyber espionage groups around the world but also in order to regain the trust of its loyal userbase."

SMBS PRIORITIZE MANAGING RISK OVER WINNING CUSTOMERS

DUBAI: Running any business can be tough, but small and growing companies face particular challenges. Kaspersky Lab research shows that, in a world of rapidly evolving IT security threats and market volatility, companies with fewer than 100 employees are prioritising the management of risk ahead of innovation (39%), gaining new customers (37%) and becoming a digital business (35%).

small businesses' is a collection of comments, quotes, advice, lists and more, illustrated with examples of Kaspersky Lab's own experience. Published to mark Kaspersky Lab's 20th birthday, the guide offers personal perspectives on leadership, finance, risk, recruitment, innovation, competition and IT - as well as favourite business quotes and top books.

The insight includes:

- How to convince financial backers you're worth investing in, and what to spend your money on.
- Why you should approach success with caution, especially in the early days.
- Why you should always listen to customers but not become over-dependent on them.
- Why some employees will not be ready to grow with the business.
- How to overcome the fear of failure.
- How to recognise when competitors are allies.
- Why you should never recruit someone who's perfect at the job and more.

Eugene Kaspersky, chairman and CEO of Kaspersky Lab, said: "When you run a business, every day brings new challenges and opportunities - and they all have something of value to teach you. Over 20 years, we've learned so much! And now we'd like to share some of that insight and experience with you. The journey from startup to global enterprise is a tough one - but also an exhilarating and rewarding one."

Copies of Take 10 minutes: insight on big decisions for small businesses can be downloaded from link.



Eugene Kaspersky

To help such businesses address their concerns, some of Kaspersky Lab's top managers, including the CEO, Eugene Kaspersky, have joined forces to share their personal thoughts on the key challenges facing smaller companies. The result, "Take 10 minutes: Insight on big decisions for

UBER SETTLES COMPLAINT OVER DATA PROTECTION FOR RIDERS, DRIVERS

WASHINGTON: Uber agreed to implement new data protection measures to settle complaints that it failed to prevent improper snooping on driver and customer information, officials said Tuesday.

The ridesharing giant had faced complaints that it allowed some employees to use the "God view" to monitor customer movements that could allow Uber managers to keep tabs on journalists investigating the ridesharing giant.

A separate complaint said that Uber had also failed to prevent a data breach that allowed hackers to gain access to personal information on some 100,000 drivers.

The Federal Trade Commission announced a settlement on an investigation into allegations that Uber failed to live up to data protection claims. It requires Uber to submit to independent privacy audits every two years for the next 20 years.

"Uber failed consumers in two key ways: First by misrepresenting the extent to which it monitored its employees' access to personal information about users and drivers, and second by misrepresenting that it took reasonable steps to secure that data," said FTC acting chairman Maureen Ohlhausen in a statement.

"This case shows that, even if you're a fast growing company, you can't leave consumers behind: you must honor your privacy and security promises."

Ohlhausen said the agency began its investigation in response to a "consumer uproar" over reports that Uber executives used "God view," indicating the whereabouts of riders, for parties and other purposes.

"We've always treated geolocation as sensitive information," Ohlhausen told a conference call.

The settlement contains no financial penalty, but Uber agreed to implement "a comprehensive privacy program" that will include independent audits, the FTC said. If it fails to live up to the agreement it could face fines.

The agency which enforces consumer and privacy protection said Uber had announced in November 2014 - but failed to enforce-a "strict policy" prohibiting employees from accessing rider and driver data except for legitimate business purposes.

The FTC added in a statement that Uber "did not take reasonable, low-cost measures" that could have prevented a breach by using better practices to protect data in the internet cloud. — AFP

CHINESE TEEN INTERNET ADDICT DIES AFTER REHAB

BEIJING: A Chinese teen has died after spending less than 48 hours at a centre that treats internet addicts, shining a spotlight on the controversial facilities that seek to unlash people from their screens.

The first country to declare internet addiction a clinical disorder, China is estimated to be home to millions of primarily young men who spend hours online.

The parents of Li Ao, 18, had tried everything they could think of to cure his internet addiction: showing him the ropes of the family business, encouraging him to join the military and taking him on trips around the country.

But after none of these methods produced results, they decided to pay 22,800 yuan (\$3,414) for 180 days of "closed, isolated special education" at the rehab centre.

The school had promised to use a combination of psychological treatment methods and military training. Li's parents told state channel CCTV on Sunday.

While the cause of Li's death remains

unknown, his father Li Tao and mother Liu Dongmei told CCTV that the school called them just a day and a half after they had dropped off their son to say that the younger Li was in the emergency room.

By the time they arrived at the hospital, Li had already been moved to the morgue, where his parents found his body covered with scars.

"The teachers at the centre told us that their teaching style was very nurturing. They said they never beat kids or used corporal punishment," Liu Dongmei recalled to CCTV.

"But when I saw my son's body there were bruises all over his arms and legs."

According to CCTV, the school, located near the provincial capital of Hefei, was unlicensed and had already been directed several times by the local government to halt its operations.

"Now I just want the authorities to investigate and expose the truth of my son's death," said Li Tao. — AFP



BERLIN: People watch German chancellor Angela Merkel during a live interview with four of the most famous German YouTubers, yesterday in Berlin. — AFP

MERKEL REACHES OUT TO YOUNG VOTERS ON YOUTUBE

BERLIN: German Chancellor Angela Merkel, campaigning yesterday for the youth vote on YouTube ahead of September 24 elections, said her favourite emoticon was the "smiley" and dismissed fears about a potential World War III.

The 63-year-old leader, in power for nearly 12 years, also said she hoped to appoint equal numbers of male and female ministers from her conservative party if she wins a fourth term, though she could not speak for possible coalition partners.

In interviews with four young German

YouTube personalities, including beauty, technology and politics video-bloggers, she spoke about issues ranging from refugees to climate and the importance of casting one's ballot.

She said her government would push on with the promotion of environmentally friendly electric cars, revealing that her main media spokesman drives one but that she could not because no automaker had yet manufactured an armoured model.

She confided that her favourite emoticon was the smiley, sometimes with a heart

attached. Asked about the more serious issue of whether North Korea tensions and other international conflicts threatened to escalate into "World War III", she responded with a firm "no", adding that "we can avert such catastrophes". Speaking about North Korea and the role of US President Donald Trump, Merkel said "we must be very careful with language, generally."

"Language can be the precursor to an escalation that, somewhere down the road, could lead to violence." — AFP

FROM ISAAC ASIMOV TO AIMEE MANN, 'ROBOPHOBIA' PLAGUES HUMANS

CINCINNATI: Robots are secretly plotting to kill us. Or enslave us. Or, at best, they will take our jobs, one by one. From science fiction written by Isaac Asimov eight decades ago to "Dilbert" cartoons today, the relationship between robots and humans has long fascinated - and worried - people.

There's even a term, "robophobia," for an irrational anxiety about robots and other advanced automation machines. And there are concerns beyond the ones stoked by watching too much "Terminator." Apple computer pioneer Steve Wozniak once suggested that robots would turn us into their pets. Physicist Stephen Hawking and tech entrepreneur Elon Musk have also warned about the dangers of going too far, too quickly, in developing "thinking robots" with programmed intelligence that might keep evolving self-awareness, similar to the humanoids in the HBO series "Westworld."

Hawking told the BBC in 2014 that "development of full artificial intelligence could spell the end of the human race." So there's that. Researchers vary in projections on how long from now, if ever, such a threat could exist. For now, deaths by robot are very rare among industrial accidents. However, in July 2015, a 57-year-old technician was killed by a robotic machine in an Ionia, Michigan, plant that makes auto bumpers, trailer hitches and chrome-plated plastics. Her husband filed a federal lawsuit, being contested by the defendants, alleging a malfunctioning robot took her "by surprise," crushing her head.

As chief technology officer for a private-public effort to facilitate robotic solutions in US manufacturing, professor Howie Choset of Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh sees the fear of robots taking jobs making his mission tougher.

"You have to start this discussion with the baseline that automation and innovation creates jobs," he said, by leading to new products and processes and the new jobs to make and operate them.

"Then you have to ask yourself, why would robots be different? And people are very quick to say, 'Well, robots are intelligent, they do what humans can do, and there's this fear that was sort of instilled by science fiction.'"

Comparing fear of robots to 19th-century worries about the impact of steam engines, Choset said: "Robots are just the next generation of tools." Singer Aimee Mann, with help from actress Laura Linney, humorously depicted the danger of letting robots help you too much in this music video. And Choset was amused by a recent "Dilbert" strip about the boss' inability to

stop a robot worker who decided to quit.

Chris Boggess, 18, found the 2004 movie "I, Robot" about a rogue killer robot drawn from Asimov stories, frightening, but he has come to understand and appreciate their potential through the Butler Tech robotics program at Colerain High School near Cincinnati.

"The first day I walked in, I fell in love. I knew this was where I needed to be," Boggess said. "I like robots, anything about technology." And if some day thinking robots acquired the ability to threaten humans, he said, "I would probably try to make friends with them." — AP



CAMBRIDGE: In this Oct 24, 2014 file photo, researchers Randall Briggs, left, and Will Bosworth monitor a robotic cheetah during a test run on an athletic field at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Mass. MIT scientists said the robot, modeled after the fastest land animal, may have real-world applications, including development for prosthetic legs. — AP

'MISSING LINK' BOLSTERS BOLD THEORY ON DINO EVOLUTION

PARIS: An oddball, vegetarian dinosaur with the silhouette of a flesh-ripping velociraptor, whose fossilised remains were unearthed in southern Chile 13 years ago, is a missing link in dino evolution, researchers said yesterday. A revised assessment of the kangaroo-sized Chilesaurus, reported in the journal *Biology Letters*, bolsters a theory unveiled earlier this year that threatens to upend a long-standing classification of all dinosaurs. Dinosaurs were the monarchs of Earth for 160 million years until a space rock collided with the planet 65.5 million years ago and wiped out those confined to land.

The survivors, which could fly, are the direct ancestor of today's birds. "Chilesaurus genuinely helps fill an evolutionary gap between two big dinosaur groups," said co-author Paul Barrett, president of Britain's Palaeontographical Society and a researcher at the Natural History Museum. When first presented to the world in 2015, Chilesaurus-despite its penchant for plants-was lumped together with theropods, the suborder of meat-eating dinos that not only includes fleet-footed velociraptors but Tyrannosaurus rex, the ultimate carnivore.

Experts acknowledged at the time, however, that it was an awkward fit. One described the beast as "the most bizarre dinosaur ever found." An upright posture, powerful hind legs and foreshortened front limbs were all reminiscent of theropods. But an inverted, bird-like hip structure and flattened, leaf-shaped teeth-proof of an exclusively vegetal diet-suggested that it also shared traits with another major suborder, the Ornithischia.

Well-known ornithischians include Triceratops and the three-ton Stegosaurus, which boasted large armored plates along its spine and a brain the size of a walnut. "Chilesaurus initially looked like an earlier offshoot of the theropod line, but it seemed suspicious that it had all these adaptations for eating plants," Barrett said. It lived about 150 million years ago, far earlier than the handful of theropods known to have turned away from meat, he pointed out.

Common ancestor

To verify Chilesaurus' place in the dino family tree, Barrett and Matthew Baron of the University of Cambridge analyzed more than 450 anatomical features of early dinosaurs. What they found confirmed a hunch. "We realized that it was not a strange, early plant-eating theropod, but rather a strange plant-eating animal that was an offshoot of this other group, Ornithischia," Barrett said. Reassigning Chilesaurus to a new family tree might seem like something only a dino lover could find exciting.

But the new affiliation has major implications. For most of the last century, experts have agreed that theropods were more closely related to a third major evolutionary branch, the Sauropods, that included long-necked beasts such as Diplodocus and Brachiosaurus. But the neither-fish-nor-fowl Chilesaurus shows that the fearsome killers under the theropod umbrella shared, in fact, a greater affinity with the docile Ornithischia menagerie.

This was the bold theory that Baron and Barrett, along with other colleagues, proposed in a landmark study published last March in the journal *Nature*. "Our reorganization was putting Ornithischia and theropods much closer together, and this new animal helps cement that relationship," Barrett explained. "Chilesaurus gives us more confidence that this rearrangement was correct because it has a combination of features found in those two groups." The first dinosaur emerged some 228 million years ago.

The new findings support the idea that theropods and ornithischians shared a common ancestor as early as 225 million years ago, not long after the dino saga began. Ornithischia thrived for more than 100 million years, but dead-ended when the rogue rock smashed into what, today is the Yucatan peninsula in Mexico. The impact probably created a massive firestorm followed by a decades-long winter that destroyed vegetation, the starting point in the dinosaurs' food chain. Most theropods were wiped out too, although the forerunners of modern birds persevered.—AFP



IN SPACE: This NASA TV handout image shows the SpaceX Dragon cargo craft approaching the International Space Station. —AFP

'DRAGON CAPTURED' AS CARGO ARRIVES AT SPACE STATION

MIAMI: SpaceX's unmanned Dragon cargo vessel, carrying the first super-computer to space as part of its 6,400 pound payload arrived yesterday at the International Space Station. "And that is confirmed capture," said a NASA commentator as space station's robotic arm grabbed the spaceship at 6:52 am (1052 GMT).

The spaceship blasted off Monday from Cape Canaveral, Florida, carrying food, science experiments and other gear for the astronauts living in orbit.

It is the 12th mission for SpaceX under a \$1.6 billion contract with NASA. A key part of the cargo is a sophisticated supercomputer

made by Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE), called The Space borne Computer. Researchers want to see if the computer can survive the harsh conditions of space, and whether it could one day help astronauts navigate long missions in deep space, whether around the Moon or to Mars.—AFP

NEUTRON BEAMS, X-RAYS REVEAL MORE ABOUT T REX RELATIVE

ALBUQUERQUE: Researchers at a top US laboratory announced Tuesday that they have produced the highest resolution scan ever done of the inner workings of a fossilized tyrannosaur skull using neutron beams and high-energy X-rays, resulting in new clues that could help paleontologists piece together the evolutionary puzzle of the monstrous T rex. Officials with Los Alamos National Laboratory and the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science said they were able to peer deep into the skull of a "Bisti Beast," a rex relative that lived millions of years ago in what is now northwestern New Mexico.

The images detail the dinosaur's brain and sinus cavities, the pathways of some nerves and blood vessels and teeth that formed but never emerged. Thomas Williamson, the museum's curator of paleontology and part of the team that originally collected the specimen in the 1990s, said the scans are helping paleontologists figure out how the different species within the T. rex family relate to each other and how they evolved. "We're unveiling the internal anatomy of the skull so we're going to see things that nobody has ever seen before," he said during a news conference Tuesday.

T rex and other tyrannosaurs were huge, dominant predators, but they evolved from much smaller ancestors. The fossilized remnants of the Bisti



NEW MEXICO: A model of a monstrous, bone-crushing Tyrannosaurus rex sits on display in the main room of the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science in Albuquerque, New Mexico. —AP

Beast, or Bistahieversor sealeyi, were found in the Bisti/De-Na-Zin Wilderness Area near Farmington, New Mexico. Dry, dusty badlands today, the area in the time of the tyrannosaur would have been a warmer, swampy environment with more trees. The species lived about 10 million years before T rex.

Scientists have said it represents one of the early tyrannosaurs that had many of the advanced features - including big-headed, bone-crushing characteristics and small forelimbs - that were integral

for the survival of T rex. Officials said the dinosaur's skull is the largest object to date for which full, high-resolution neutron and X-ray CT scans have been done at Los Alamos. The technology is typically used for the lab's work on defense and national security. The thickness of the skull, which spans 40 inches, required stronger X-rays than those typically available to penetrate the fossil.

That's where the lab's electron and proton accelerators came in. Sven Vogel, who works at the Los Alamos

Neutron Science Center, said the three-dimensional scanning capabilities at the lab have produced images that allow paleontologists to see the dinosaur much as it would have been at the time of its death, rather than just the dense mineral outline of the fossil that was left behind after tens of millions of years. The team, which included staff from the University of New Mexico and the University of Edinburgh, is scheduled to present its work at an international paleontology conference in Canada next week.

Kat Schroeder, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of New Mexico who has been working on the project for about a year, said the scanning technology has the ability to uncover detail absent in traditional X-rays and the resulting three-dimensional images can be shared with fellow researchers around the world without compromising the integrity of the original fossil. Schroeder's work centers understanding the behavior of dinosaurs, so seeing the un-erupted teeth in the Bisti Beast's upper jaw was exciting. "Looking at how fast they're replacing teeth tells us something about how fast they're growing, which tells me something about how much energy they need and how active they were," she said. "It's those little things that enable us to understand more and more about prehistoric environments.—AP

US TEEN DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS INCH UP AFTER YEARS OF DECLINE

NEW YORK: After years of decline, teen deaths from drug overdoses have inched up, a new US government report shows. The drop in teen deaths had been a rare bright spot in the opioid epidemic that has seen adult overdose deaths surge year after year - fueled by abuse of prescription painkillers, heroin and newer drugs like fentanyl.

"This is a warning sign that we need to keep paying attention to what's happening with young people," said Katherine Keyes, a Columbia University expert on drug abuse issues who wasn't part of the study. It's not clear why teen overdose deaths increased in 2015 or whether the trend will continue, said lead researcher Sally Curtin of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The CDC released the report Wednesday focusing on adolescents aged 15 to 19.

The overdose death rate rose to 3.7 per 100,000 teens in 2015, from 3.1 the previous year. Most of the deaths were accidental and were mainly caused by heroin, researchers found. Clearly, drug overdoses have been a far smaller problem in teens than in adults. Tens of thousands of adults die from overdoses each year compared to about 700 to 800 teens. Another difference:

Unlike adults, overdose deaths in teens have not been climbing every year.

To their surprise, CDC researchers found that teen overdose deaths actually fell after 2008, and dropped as low as about 3 per 100,000 during 2012 through 2014. The drop tracks with previously reported declines in teen drug use, smoking, drinking, sex and other risky behaviors, Keyes said. Some experts believe those declines are related to more time spent on smartphones and social media. The decline was driven by boys, who account for about two-thirds of teen overdose deaths. The boys' rate fell by a third in those years, but the girls' rate held fairly steady.

Then came the increase. The rate among boys rose to 4.6 per 100,000 in 2015 from 4 the year before. Among girls, it increased to 2.7 from 2.2. Though small, it was the highest overdose death rate for girls since at least 1979, Curtin said. Health expert said it's likely teen overdoses edged up in 2015 because of the increasing availability of newer and more lethal kinds of opioids like fentanyl, which is sometimes mixed with heroin. "If the drugs are more potent, your chances of it (drug use) being fatal have perhaps increased," Curtin said. —AP

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HISTORIC EVENT IN KUWAIT MARKS 70 YEARS OF INDIA INDEPENDENCE

MUSICAL TRIBUTE 'AAJ KI SHAAM DESH KE NAAM' REGALES AUDIENCE

Under the auspices of the Indian Embassy in Kuwait, a team of businessmen and active community members organized "Aaj Ki Shaam Desh Ke Naam" a musical tribute to celebrate the 70th anniversary of Indian Independence. The organizing committee, comprising Andrew Thomas, Reaven D'Souza, Rajpal Tyagi, E D Titus and Ashok Kalra representing the Mughal Mahal group in conjunction with the Indian Embassy created history by having an event for the first time ever in the evening on 15th August, the Indian Independence Day.

The beautiful red-stoned Indian Embassy building was also illuminated in tricolor hues of the Indian flag to mark this special occasion. Three talented singers, Dr Mrudula Joshi Dadhe, Nilesh Prakash Nirgudkar and Rakesh Khurana and a team of six musicians were specially flown in from India to be a part of the celebrations.

After a welcome address by Rajpal Tyagi representing the organizing committee, Sunil Jain, the Indian Ambassador to Kuwait spoke about the concept of the program and its significance to the Indian community in Kuwait. The organizing committee joined Tyagi and the Ambassador on stage to felicitate the artists for the



—Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

evening that included the singers and musicians Amey Thakurdesai, Digambar Mankar, Manoj Shrivling, Ashutosh Dange, Rohit Gaikwad and Suhas Katdare. Dr Gargi Jain, wife of the Indian Ambassador to Kuwait accompanied by Najida Reaven, Lorraine Thomas, Gauri Tyagi and Mamta Kalra did the honors of lighting the inaugural lamp.

The evening kicked off with an emotional and touching patriotic number by Joshi. The famous 'Ae Mere Watan Ke Logon' followed by 'Kar Chale Hum Fida' by Nirgudkar

and 'Hai Preet Jahan Ki Reet Sada' by Khurana. The patriotic numbers flowed into romantic classics, qawalis and other catchy tunes to keep the audience thoroughly entertained. Joshi's melodious songs were made even more meaningful with her explanation on the intricacies of tonality, pitch and emotions.

Nirgudkar gave glimpse of his talent for whistling songs through the beautiful number 'Yeh Shaam Mastani' while taking on challenging numbers like the male duet 'Ek Chatur Naar' single handedly. Khurana, a ver-

satile performer specializing in eclectic genres and singers, sang the Salman Khan song 'Tere Mast Mast Do Nain' with just as much ease as the classic 'Na Moonh Chupa Ke Jiyo'.

Kalra presented the vote of thanks showing his appreciation to all those that were involved in making the event a success including eminent dignitaries such as Prof. Dr Shamir Ally, Ambassador of Guyana, SM Abul Kalam, and Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan, Editor-in-Chief of Kuwait Times among others.

The evening was conducted fluidly

by the master of ceremonies, Nita Bhatkar Chogle and ended on a high note with a passionate rendition of 'Vande Mataram' by all the singers, accompanied by the audience joining

in proudly waving Indian flags. A fitting end to the patriotic event marking a truly historic occasion. All the guests were invited to dinner served courtesy the Mughal Mahal.



On behalf of the Indian Community, the social worker and member of the UN International Youth Council Pani J Anthony honored the Indian Ambassador to Kuwait Sunil Jain for the good Samaritan role played by the Indian Embassy for the Indian Community in Kuwait.



More than 120 children from LOYAC participated in a course for four days at the Cooking Academy of SAVECO that was presented by a group of international chefs. The young children enjoyed a fruitful time in developing their skills towards healthy nutrition and knowing the principles of cooking.



01:35 Grosse Pointe Blank
03:35 The Man From U.N.C.L.E.
05:40 Road Wars
07:30 Judge Dredd
09:10 Grosse Pointe Blank
11:00 The Man From U.N.C.L.E.
12:55 Forbidden Empire
14:55 Judge Dredd
16:35 Rampage: President Down
18:15 Hard Target 2
20:00 Sherlock Holmes
22:10 Troy



00:45 Treehouse Masters
01:40 Preposterous Pets
02:35 Gator Boys
03:25 The Bronx Zoo
04:15 Insane Pools: Off The Deep End
05:02 Mutant Planet
05:49 Untamed & Uncut
06:36 Swamp Brothers
07:00 Swamp Brothers
07:25 Gator Boys
08:15 Treehouse Masters
09:10 Preposterous Pets
10:05 Mutant Planet
11:00 Gator Boys
11:55 The Bronx Zoo
12:50 Insane Pools: Off The Deep End
13:45 Preposterous Pets
14:40 Mutant Planet
15:35 Untamed & Uncut
16:30 Treehouse Masters
17:25 Whale Wars
18:20 Whale Wars
19:15 Preposterous Pets
20:10 Gator Boys
21:05 Whale Wars
22:00 Whale Wars
22:55 Mutant Planet
23:50 Untamed & Uncut



00:25 EastEnders
00:55 Poldark
01:50 Last Tango In Halifax
02:45 Prime Suspect: Tennison
03:25 New Blood
04:20 The Coroner
05:05 Poldark
06:00 Holby City
06:55 EastEnders
07:20 Death In Paradise
08:15 Doctor Who
09:15 Father Brown
10:00 EastEnders
10:30 Death In Paradise
11:25 Doctor Who
12:25 Father Brown
13:15 The Coroner
14:05 EastEnders
14:35 Death In Paradise
15:30 Doctor Who
16:30 Father Brown
17:20 The Coroner
18:10 Carters Get Rich
18:30 EastEnders
19:05 Death In Paradise
20:00 Holby City
21:00 Carters Get Rich
21:25 Mum
22:00 Uncle
22:25 Pramface
23:00 Benidorm
23:50 Death In Paradise



00:00 Escaping Polygamy
01:00 Celebrity Ghost Stories
02:00 My Haunted House
03:00 Psychic Kids: Children Of The Paranormal
04:00 Escaping Polygamy
05:00 Celebrity Ghost Stories
06:00 It Takes A Killer
07:30 It Takes A Killer
08:00 The First 48
09:00 Homicide Hunter
10:00 Crimes That Shook 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 Homicide Hunter
23:00 It Takes A Killer
23:30 It Takes A Killer



00:05 Inside Amy Schumer
00:30 Inside Amy Schumer
00:55 Broad City
01:20 Broad City
01:45 Another Period
02:10 Chappelle's Show
02:35 Important Things With Demetri Martin
03:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
03:25 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
04:15 Lip Sync Battle
04:40 Ridiculousness
05:05 Disaster Date
05:30 Catch A Contractor
05:55 Catch A Contractor
06:20 Framework
07:15 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
08:05 Disaster Date
08:30 Impractical Jokers
08:55 Ridiculousness
09:20 Key And Peele
09:45 Lip Sync Battle
10:10 Ridiculousness
10:35 Disaster Date
11:00 Urban Tarzan
11:25 Tattoo Disasters
11:50 Disaster Date
12:15 Catch A Contractor
12:40 Catch A Contractor
13:05 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
13:55 Sweat Inc.
14:45 Lip Sync Battle
15:10 Lip Sync Battle
15:35 Ridiculousness
16:00 Impractical Jokers
16:25 Disaster Date
16:50 Disaster Date
17:15 Ridiculousness
17:40 Comedy Central Presents Comedy 3alwagef
18:10 Impractical Jokers
18:33 Key And Peele
18:56 Ridiculousness Arabia
19:19 Ridiculousness Arabia
19:43 Disaster Date

20:05 Lip Sync Battle
20:30 Lip Sync Battle
21:00 The Daily Show - Global Edition
21:30 Another Period
22:00 Idiotsitter
22:25 Kroll Show
22:50 John Oliver's New York Stand Up Show
23:15 John Oliver's New York Stand Up Show
23:40 The Daily Show - Global Edition



00:30 Lost & Found With Mike & Jesse
01:20 World's Toughest Expeditions With James Cracknell
02:10 Animal Nation With Anthony Anderson
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 Kids vs Film
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 My Cat From Hell
12:00 Finding Bigfoot
12:50 How It's Made
13:15 How It's Made
13:40 Playhouse Masters
14:30 Kenny The Shark
14:55 Kids vs Film
15:20 Guinness World Records Smashed UK
16:10 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
17:00 Weather Top Tens
17:50 Engineering Earthquakes
18:40 Mythbusters
19:30 How It's Made
19:55 How It's Made
20:20 Guinness World Records Smashed UK
21:10 Weather Top Tens
22:00 Engineering Earthquakes
22:50 Finding Bigfoot
23:40 Guinness World Records Smashed UK



00:30 Vanity Fair Confidential
01:20 Evil Online
02:10 Horror Comes To Town
03:00 Your Worst Nightmare
03:48 Betrayed
04:36 Betrayed
05:24 Betrayed
06:12 Betrayed
07:00 Deadly Affairs
07:50 Deadly Affairs
09:30 Deadly Affairs
10:20 The Coroner
10:45 The Locator
11:10 Women In Prison
12:00 Betrayed
12:50 Betrayed
13:40 Betrayed
14:30 Betrayed
15:20 The Locator
15:45 The Locator
16:10 Evil Online
17:00 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
19:55 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
20:20 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall
21:10 Murder Chose Me
22:00 Horror Comes To Town
22:50 The Detectives Club: New Orleans
23:40 Evil Online



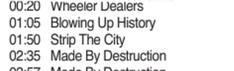
00:00 Hank Zipzer
00:25 Alex & Co.
00:45 The Hive
00:50 Evermoor Chronicles
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:40 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
02:05 Binny And The Ghost
02:30 Binny And The Ghost
02:55 Hank Zipzer
03:15 The Hive
03:20 Hank Zipzer
03:45 Alex & Co.
04:10 Alex & Co.
04:35 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 Loloock
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.
11:00 Loloock
11:30 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
11:55 Disney Mickey Mouse
12:00 Welcome To The Ponks
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 Loloock
14:50 The ZhuZhus
15:15 Whisker Haven Tales With The Palace Pets
15:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
15:45 Elena Of Avalor
16:10 Liv And Maddie
16:35 Descendants Wicked World
16:40 Girl Meets World
17:00 Stuck In The Middle
17:30 Bunk'd
17:55 Bizaardvark
18:20 Disney Mickey Mouse
18:25 Alex & Co.
18:50 Best Friends Whenever
19:15 Sunny Bunnies
19:20 Liv And Maddie
19:45 Mako Mermaids
20:10 Jessie
20:35 Crackle
20:40 Alex & Co.
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 Loloock
23:10 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage



00:00 Henry Hugglemonster
00:15 Calimero
00:30 Art Attack
00:55 Zou
01:05 Loopidoo
01:20 Henry Hugglemonster
01:35 Calimero
01:50 Zou
02:05 Art Attack
02:30 The Hive
02:40 Loopidoo
02:55 Henry Hugglemonster
03:10 Art Attack
03:35 Loopidoo
03:50 Calimero
04:05 Art Attack
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04:45 Zou
05:00 Art Attack
05:30 Henry Hugglemonster
05:45 Loopidoo
06:00 Zou
06:15 Calimero
06:30 Loopidoo
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 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
11:50 Goldie & Bear
12:15 Sofia The First
12:40 Miles From Tomorrow
13:10 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
13:35 PJ Masks
14:00 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
14:30 The Lion Guard
14:55 Harry And Bip
15:00 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
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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 Loopidoo



00:00 Chopped
01:00 Food Network Star Kids
02:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
03:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
04:00 Man Fire Food
04:30 Chopped
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
06:00 Barefoot Contessa
06:30 Barefoot Contessa
07:00 The Kitchen
08:00 The Pioneer Woman
08:30 The Pioneer Woman
09:00 Siba's Table
09:30 Siba's Table
10:00 The Pioneer Woman
10:30 The Pioneer Woman
11:00 The Kitchen
12:00 The Pioneer Woman
12:30 The Pioneer Woman
13:00 Siba's Table
13:30 Siba's Table
14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
15:00 Chopped
16:00 The Kitchen
17:00 The Pioneer Woman
17:30 The Pioneer Woman
18:00 Chopped
19:00 Iron Chef America
20:00 Rev Run's Sunday Suppers
20:30 Rev Run's Sunday Suppers
21:00 Smollett Eats
21:30 Smollett Eats
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 Emmerdale
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
03:25 This Is England '90
04:45 Catchphrase
05:15 Couples Come Dine With Me
06:05 Highway Thru Hell
07:05 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
08:00 This Is England '90
09:20 Catchphrase
10:10 Couples Come Dine With Me
10:50 Don't Tell The Bride
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12:45 Emmerdale
13:15 Coronation Street
13:45 Coronation Street
14:10 Don't Tell The Bride
15:10 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
16:00 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!
17:15 Catchphrase
17:50 Couples Come Dine With Me
18:45 Emmerdale
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19:45 Coronation Street
20:10 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
21:00 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!
22:10 Catchphrase
22:50 Emmerdale
23:15 Coronation Street
23:35 Coronation Street



00:00 Decoding The Past
01:00 Command Decisions
01:30 Command Decisions
02:00 Missing In Alaska
02:50 Ancient Aliens
03:40 True Monsters
04:30 Million Dollar Genius
05:20 Decoding The Past
06:10 The Universe
07:00 Command Decisions
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08:00 Missing In Alaska
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16:00 True Monsters
17:00 The Universe
18:00 Decoding The Past
19:00 Command Decisions
19:30 Command Decisions
20:00 Missing In Alaska
21:00 Ancient Aliens
22:00 Blood And Glory: The Civil War In Color
23:00 Million Dollar Genius



00:20 Counting Cars
00:45 Counting Cars
01:10 Forged In Fire
02:00 Hunting Hitler
02:50 Storage Wars
03:15 American Pickers
04:05 Pawn Stars
04:30 Pawn Stars
05:00 Mountain Men
06:00 Lost In Transmission
06:50 Duck Dynasty
07:15 Duck Dynasty
07:40 Counting Cars
08:05 Counting Cars



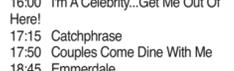
00:50 Hollywood Medium With 1yer
01:50 El News
02:50 Celebrity Style Story
03:20 Celebrity Style Story
03:50 Botched By Nature
04:40 Botched By Nature
05:30 Celebrity Style Story
06:00 EJ NYC
07:00 EJ NYC
08:00 El News: Daily Pop
08:55 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
09:55 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
10:50 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
11:45 Celebrity Style Story
12:15 Botched
13:10 Botched
14:05 Botched
15:00 El News: Daily Pop
15:55 Life Of Kylie
16:20 Life Of Kylie
16:50 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
17:40 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
18:30 Celebrity Style Story
19:00 El News
20:00 WAGs Miami
21:00 WAGs Miami
22:00 WAGs Miami
23:00 Famously Single
23:55 Famously Single



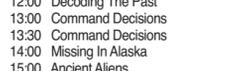
00:45 Testing The Menu With Nic Watt
01:10 Fish Of The Day
01:40 Taste Of Tropic: Taiwan
02:35 Eat Street
03:00 Eat Street
03:30 The Food Files
03:55 The Food Files
04:25 Poh & Co.
04:50 Fish Of The Day
05:20 Sinful Sweets
05:45 Sinful Sweets
06:15 Living Free With Kimi Werner
07:10 Taste Of Tropic: Taiwan
08:05 Eat Street
08:30 Eat Street
09:00 The Food Files
09:25 The Food Files
09:55 Poh & Co.
10:20 Fish Of The Day
10:50 Sinful Sweets
11:15 Sinful Sweets
11:45 Living Free With Kimi Werner
12:40 Bad Trip
13:35 Eat Street
14:00 Eat Street
14:30 The Food Files
14:55 The Food Files
15:25 Poh & Co.
15:50 Fish Of The Day
16:20 Sinful Sweets
16:45 Sinful Sweets
17:15 Living Free With Kimi Werner
18:10 Restoration Man
19:05 Poh & Co.
19:30 Fish Of The Day
20:00 Sinful Sweets
20:30 Sinful Sweets
21:00 Living Free With Kimi Werner
22:00 Restoration Man
22:55 Bad Trip
23:50 Eat Street



00:10 Surgery Ship
01:00 Fidel Castro: The Lost Tapes
02:00 Challenger Disaster: Lost Tapes
03:00 Nazi Megastructures
04:00 Surgery Ship
05:00 Generals At War
06:00 Highway Thru Hell
07:00 Megastructures
08:00 King Fishers
09:00 WWII's Greatest Raids
10:00 Supercar Megabuild
11:00 Big Fix Alaska
12:00 Nazi Megastructures
13:00 Highway Thru Hell
14:00 Living Free With Kimi Werner
15:00 World's Most Extreme
16:00 Supercar Megabuild
17:00 Big Fix Alaska
18:00 Locked Up Abroad
19:00 World's Most Extreme
20:00 Supercar Megabuild
20:50 Big Fix Alaska
21:40 Locked Up Abroad
22:30 World's Most Extreme
23:20 King Fishers



00:20 Crows Of Katuma
01:10 Monster Fish
02:00 Attack Of The Big Cats
02:50 Spine Chillers: Vampire Bats
03:45 When Sharks Attack Compilations
04:40 Unlikely Animal Friends
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09:15 Dr. K's Exotic Animal 2.5
10:10 World's Deadliest
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12:00 Search For The Giant Octopus
12:55 Feast Of The Grizzly
13:50 My Life In A Zoo
14:45 World's Weirdest: Animal Taboo
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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
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07:24 Rabbids Invasion
07:48 Get Blake
08:12 Harvey Beaks
08:36 Sanjay And Craig
09:00 Rank The Prank
09:24 Henry Danger
09:48 100 Things To Do Before High School
10:12 Game Shakers
10:36 Regal Academy
11:00 Winx Club
11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants

08:30 Pawn Stars
08:55 Pawn Stars
09:20 Storage Wars: Best Of
09:45 Storage Wars: Best Of
10:10 American Pickers
11:00 Alone
11:50 Duck Dynasty
12:15 Duck Dynasty
12:40 Counting Cars
13:05 Counting Cars
13:30 Ice Road Truckers
14:00 Mountain Men
15:10 Lost In Transmission
16:00 Storage Wars: Best Of
16:25 Storage Wars: Best Of
16:50 Pawn Stars
17:15 Pawn Stars
17:40 Counting Cars
18:05 Counting Cars
18:30 Forged In Fire
19:20 Mountain Men
20:10 American Pickers
21:00 Football: A Brief History By Alfie Allen
21:50 Lost Worlds
22:40 Animal Chronicles: Hells Angels
23:30 American Pickers



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21:00 Living Free With Kimi Werner
22:00 Restoration Man
22:55 Bad Trip
23:50 Eat Street



00:01 Max & Ruby
00:25 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
00:36 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
00:47 The Day Henry Met
00:52 The Day Henry Met
00:57 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:19 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:41 Zack & Quack
02:03 Team Umizoomi
02:25 Olive The Ostrich
02:30 Olive The Ostrich
02:35 Paw Patrol
02:58 Little Charmers
03:10 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
03:22 Dora The Explorer
03:44 Max & Ruby
04:07 Nella The Princess Knight
04:31 Shimmer And Shine
04:54 Dora And Friends: Into The City!
05:17 Zack & Quack
05:29 The Day Henry Met
05:34 The Day Henry Met
05:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
06:00 Rusty Rivets
06:13 Paw Patrol
06:37 Dora The Explorer
07:00 Zack & Quack
07:21 Bubble Guppies
07:44 Blaze And The Monster Machines
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21:40 Locked Up Abroad
22:30 World's Most Extreme
23:20 King Fishers

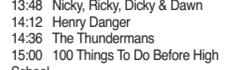


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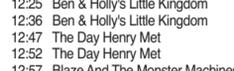
11:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
12:12 The Loud House
12:36 Breadwinners
13:00 School Of Rock
13:24 Hunter Street
13:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
14:12 Henry Danger
14:36 The Thundermans
15:00 100 Things To Do Before High School
15:24 Rabbids Invasion
15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
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23:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
23:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles



01:25 E!el & Ernest
03:05 Mamma Moo And Crow
04:30 Operation Arctic
06:05 We're Back! A Dinosaur's Story
07:20 Marco Macaco
08:40 Paws
10:10 Bunny Tales
11:25 E!el & Ernest
13:05 Mamma Moo And Crow
14:30 Hocus Pocus Alfie Atkins
15:45 Paws
17:15 Robosapien: Rebooted
18:45 Blue Elephant 2
20:25 Hocus Pocus Alfie Atkins
21:40 Marco Macaco
23:00 Bunny Tales



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20:53 Nella The Princess Knight
21:15 The Day Henry Met
21:22 Paw Patrol
21:45 Rusty Rivets
21:57 Bubble Guppies
22:20 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
22:40 Zack & Quack
22:52 Team Umizoomi
23:15 Shimmer And Shine
23:38 Shimmer And Shine

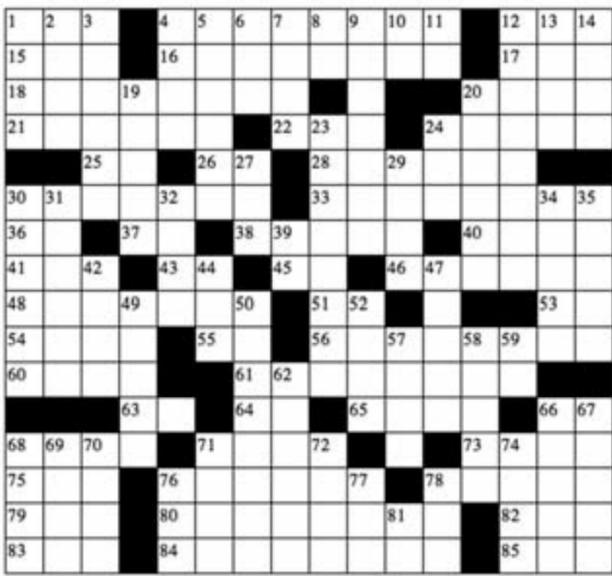


00:10 Surgery Ship
01:00 Fidel Castro: The Lost Tapes
02:00 Challenger Disaster: Lost Tapes
03:00 Nazi Megastructures
04:00 Surgery Ship
05:00 Generals At War
06:00 Highway Thru Hell
07:00 Megastructures
08:00 King Fishers
09:00 WWII's Greatest Raids
10:00 Supercar Megabuild
11:00 Big Fix Alaska
12:00 Nazi Megastructures
13:00 Highway Thru Hell
14:00 Living Free With Kimi Werner
15:00 World's Most Extreme
16:00 Supercar Megabuild
17:00 Big Fix Alaska
18:00 Locked Up Abroad
19:00 World's Most Extreme
20:00 Supercar Megabuild
20:50 Big Fix Alaska
21:40 Locked Up Abroad
22:30 World's Most Extreme
23:20 King Fishers



00:20 Crows Of Katuma
01:10 Monster Fish
02:00 Attack Of The Big Cats
02:50 Spine Chillers: Vampire Bats
03:45 When Sharks Attack Compilations
04:40 Unlikely Animal Friends
05:35 Attack Of The Big Cats
06:30 Spine Chillers: Vampire Bats
07:25 When Sharks Attack Compilations
08:20 Unlikely Animal Friends
09:15 Dr. K's Exotic Animal 2.5
10:10 World's Deadliest
11:05 When Sharks Attack Compilations
12:00 Search For The Giant Octopus
12:55 Feast Of The Grizzly
13:50 My Life In A Zoo
14:45

CROSSWORD 1688



ACROSS

1. A barrier constructed to contain the flow or water or to keep out the sea.
4. Without a flaw.
12. A small piece of cloth.
15. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
16. Any of a large class of compounds that have alternate silicon and oxygen atoms.
17. A slippery or viscous liquid or liquefiable substance not miscible with water.
18. Meat that has been barbecued or grilled in a highly seasoned sauce.
21. A covered passageway.
22. Enlarged prostate.
25. A radioactive transuranic element produced by bombarding plutonium with neutrons.
26. 16 ounces.
28. Annual to perennial woody herbs of temperate North America, Europe and Asia.
30. Strabismus in which one or both eyes are directed outward.
33. Disability of walking due to crippling of the legs or feet.
36. A soft white precious univalent metallic element having the highest electrical and thermal conductivity of any metal.
37. Angular distance above the horizon (especially of a celestial object).
38. Italian histologist noted for work on the structure of the nervous system and for his discovery of Golgi bodies (1844-1926).
40. A United Nations agency created by a multinational treaty to promote trade by the reduction of tariffs and import quotas.
41. A three-year law degree.
43. A unit of luminous flux equal to the amount of light given out through a solid angle of 1 steradian by a point source of 1 candela intensity radiating uniformly in all directions.
45. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
46. Make certain of.
48. Of or relating to Laos or its people.
51. An official prosecutor for a judicial district.
53. A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.
54. An officer who acts as military assistant to a more senior officer.
55. A heavy odorless colorless gas formed during respiration and by the decomposition of organic substances.
56. The Palestinian uprising (beginning in 1987) against the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.
60. A complex red organic pigment containing iron and other atoms to which oxygen binds.
61. Make circular welds.
63. A soft heavy toxic malleable metallic element.
64. (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
65. A genus of Mustelidae.
68. A city in east central Texas.
73. A brace that extends from the rear of the keel to support the rudderpost.
75. A flat white-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
79. The smallest multiple that is exactly divisible by every member of a set of numbers.
80. In a vertical position.
82. A member of a Mayan people of southwestern Guatemala.
83. Of or relating to a member of the Buddhist people inhabiting the Mekong river in Laos and Thailand.
84. Left desolate or empty.

DOWN

1. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
2. Any culture medium that uses agar as the gelling agent.
3. Make a marcel in a woman's hair.
4. Employed in accomplishing something.
5. In a nice way.
6. An acute febrile highly contagious viral disease.
7. United States physiologist (born in Germany) who did research on parthenogenesis (1859-1924).
8. An edge tool with a heavy bladed head mounted across a handle.
9. Bath linen consisting of a piece of cloth used to wash the face and body.
10. Half the width of an em.
11. A Mid-Atlantic state.
12. French philosopher and writer born in Switzerland.
13. A river in northern England that flows south-east through West Yorkshire.
14. Showing or causing joy and pleasure.
19. A city in northwestern Switzerland.
20. Manner of acting or conducting yourself.
23. Italian architect (1508-1580).
24. The compass point that is one point east (clockwise) of due north.
27. Call upon in supplication.
29. Type genus of the Amidae.
31. (Greek mythology) One of the three Graces.
32. (Norse mythology) Goddess of old age who defeated Thor in a wrestling match.
34. A violin made by Antonio Stradivari or a member of his family.
35. An ancient upright stone slab bearing markings.
39. A Russian river.
42. Indicate by signs.
44. (British) A waterproof raincoat made of rubberized fabric.
47. Someone who skis.
49. (music) The speed at which a composition is to be played.
50. Having no nose.
52. (prefix) In front of or before in space.
57. Small branch or division of a branch.
58. Bottle that has a narrow neck.
59. A public promotion of some product or service.
62. Eurasian primrose with yellow flowers clustered in a one-sided umbel.
66. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
67. Small terrestrial lizard of warm regions of the Old World.
69. Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.
70. Fabric dyed with splashes of green and brown and black and tan.
71. Bulky grayish-brown eagle with a short wedge-shaped white tail.
72. (Roman mythology) God of love.
74. God of love and erotic desire.
76. A partially opened flower.
77. (usually followed by 'to') Naturally disposed toward.
78. A condition (mostly in boys) characterized by behavioral and learning disorders.
81. The branch of engineering science that studies the uses of electricity and the equipment for power generation and distribution and the control of machines and communication.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

In the workplace today, you perform successfully, as you exhibit your ability to get past the surface of things and separate the thing that has real worth. Your presence in a group situation has a decided effect. Others may feel that nothing is a secret from you. You do not have to leave home to escape from the rat race. Family, home and security seem just about ideal to you. You may be very imaginative with your home and domestic setup. A sense of community and unity permeates your family life. Your ideal dream is a private one and heaven is as close as work and family. You are creative when it comes to partnerships or lovers; you seem to establish unusual and different relationships. You may find that a love relationship will deepen during this time.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

This day is one of those amazing days when everything works together. Situations are almost tailor-made and it is easy to see which path is the one to take. Opportunities prevail and you may find yourself deciding that it is time to write a book. You certainly have enough material to write on any one of your favorite subjects. There may be some question in your mind about needing a change in your position at work. Check out the inner-office openings and you will be able to move into a place that gives you some challenges. You may decide to do some special cooking this evening, and if you have your windows open, you may find some uninvited guests are willing to taste your experimental recipe. Everybody has fun!



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You are always interested in being of help to others. You enjoy teaching or helping young people use their creative mind with their use of words. Your sense of humor is not missing from your communications today. There are many practical ideas available to you, especially related to your job or skills. Careful, a customer may tell you a sad story to get a special deal. You appreciate, care and are concerned but not much can fool you. This afternoon you may enjoy a community project. Perhaps you and your family will help to contribute towards the beautification of your neighborhood. If everyone participates, the value of property could increase. You are constantly on the side of humanism at every turn.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You could be most persuasive with others and expressive in speech and communication. You are a natural for self-expression and others enjoy listening to your particular ideas and thoughts. The initiative is yours and you will find positive end results develop from your enthusiasm to achieve. This is a day to dare to be a little unconventional. You will prosper through new insights, inventions and an independent point of view. Your career could open up by taking the road less traveled or by daring to be more involved in the development of business: new approaches. You are inspired to motivate others with your creative and inventive ways. What-if types of questions seem to be the keys that turn you into the wizard all enjoy having on their side.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You may find yourself having a difference of opinion with others today. This, however, is the only way to introduce new ways of thinking among your particular business comrades. Make it a point to remove the emotions, and if you find others getting emotional, excuse yourself from the conversation. There will be other opportunities to expand upon some new idea. Given time, your ideas will gain recognition. Real insight into your own inner workings could surface now and in a manageable form. You may be in the mood for penetrating conversation this evening. Perhaps a book or magazine on the latest electronic techniques would be mesmerizing. A friend you have not heard from in some time may give you a call. Old times are fun to review.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Throwing caution to the wind, you could ignore whatever responsibilities you have and pursue a particular objective today. You have animal-like instincts when it comes to big business and this is a good time to use those instincts. You are where the action is most intense. Your mind will get through the unimportant and straight to the bottom line. Some may even respect your tenacity and it is exciting to be near you. You may tend to take paths at right angles to your real ambitions if you let yourself become distracted. If you have a co-worker friend that will join you in a project, you can keep each other focused; talk about staying focused before you begin. This afternoon you may enjoy some creative activity with some form of art, theater, sports, etc.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

This is a very lucky day for making plans or decisions and finding your way through just about any problem you may uncover. You will be feeling successful and able to cope with whatever comes across your path. Good advice from a guide may be forthcoming. You are very fortunate in being able to grow and progress throughout your life without major difficulties. You can always find the resources you require at hand plus the necessary instruction in how to use them. Your love of job and practical skills makes you a fine manager and businessperson. You bring passion to your work. Your mind is full of practical ideas, especially related to your job or skills. You are always coming up with new ideas; this is a productive day.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

A rebellious streak could affect your career now-careful. Your sense of independence may tend to kick over the apple cart and upset everything. Your progress and success may be at the expense of your more unconventional tendencies-a source of struggle. You prefer a career that accents your own devotion to the dreams and ideals you stand for these days. Working with groups in a spirit of cooperation is a natural. Everything conspires to value and to bring out your unique and unusual qualities. You may find that someone close to you understands and is supportive of your eccentricities. You could come up with new solutions. There is an opportunity this evening to understand a difficult person; you listen and love.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You would like to tell someone off at work today but you will benefit from just moving your thoughts to another place... Perhaps the next adventure you will take with the money you earn. You are at your most practical when it comes to working with others and your efforts today do not go unnoticed. You usually know just what to do. You may be moved to appreciate the beauty in your life and those around you. A sense of humor is one of the necessary ingredients to make a tough situation easier to handle. Be careful that you do not overspend or indulge too much just now. You may feel like involving yourself in some sort of celebration this evening-a celebration of life. There are new insights regarding home life.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

A rebellious streak could affect your career now-careful. Your sense of independence may tend to kick over the apple cart and upset everything. Your progress and success may be at the expense of your more unconventional tendencies-a source of struggle. You prefer a career that accents your own devotion to the dreams and ideals you stand for these days. Working with groups in a spirit of cooperation is a natural. Everything conspires to value and to bring out your unique and unusual qualities. You may find that someone close to you understands and is supportive of your eccentricities. You could come up with new solutions. There is an opportunity this evening to understand a difficult person; you listen and love.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

There is an emphasis on communication, expression of ideas and the connections between things, places and people. What goes on in your mind is the all-important motivation in your life. You tend towards mental pursuits and admire intelligence. You are very flexible and other-oriented today. Perhaps you can be all things to all people, giving them what they require. You are probably a smooth talker with a quick wit and ready tongue. You know and understand more than you let on and life changes seldom take you by surprise. You have a great deal of control over your actions. Communicating and getting your message across to others is at a high just now. You know just how to maneuver yourself into the right places; now is the time to get ahead.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Someone may criticize you today and find you somewhat preoccupied and lacking in the social graces. This is only a temporary glitch in your day. You have an innate love of the law and working things through, and you are not put off by any difficulties. On the contrary, you may look forward to hunting problems down so that you can solve them. You have the ability to work with others, particularly regarding vocation or career guidance. You can advise and guide others in all sorts of subjects, and you may find yourself doing so today. This could be a particularly lucky day. Study the options carefully before making any investment decisions. Tonight is a good night for you to take your turn at cooking.

WORD SEARCH

Old West 1

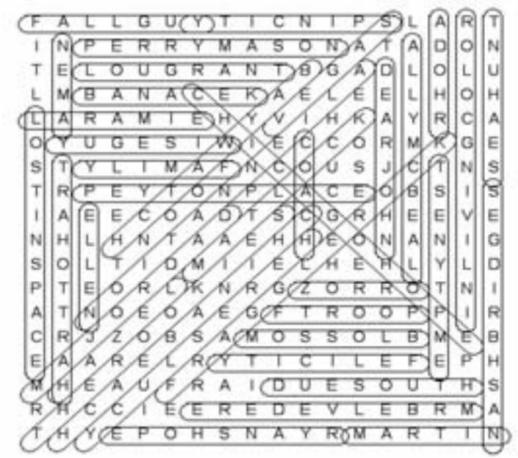
Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 25 letters spell a George Eliot quotation.



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

Yesterday's Solution

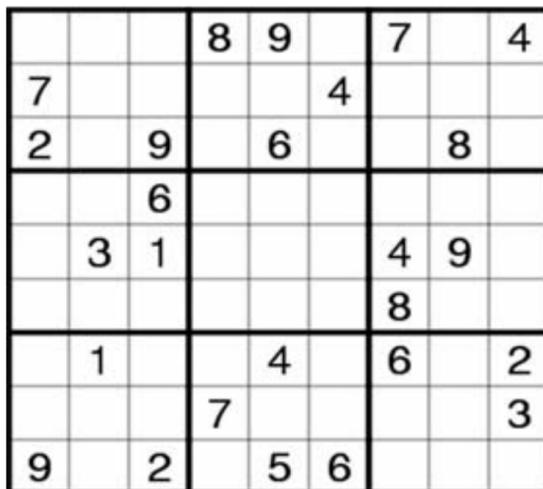
Old TV Shows 4



- | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| ALIEN NATION | DUE SOUTH | HERE'S LUCY | PERRY MASON |
| ALLY MCBEAL | ELLEN | IN LIVING COLOR | PEYTON PLACE |
| AMEN | EMPTY NEST | LARAMIE | RHODA |
| BANACEK | F TROOP | LOST IN SPACE | RYAN'S HOPE |
| BAYWATCH | FALL GUY | LOU GRANT | SEA HUNT |
| BLOSSOM | FAMILY | MAJOR DAD | SPIN CITY |
| CHICAGO HOPE | FELICITY | MARTIN | THE ROOKIES |
| CHINA BEACH | FRAGGLE ROCK | MATLOCK | VEGAS |
| CDACH | HART TO HART | MR BELVEDERE | WISEGUY |
| DEAR JOHN | HAZEL | NASH BRIDGES | ZORRO |

The hidden TV show is: LITTLE HOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



CLASSIFIEDS



Kuwait Times
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www.kuwaittimes.net
 e-mail: info@kuwaittimes.net

KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY			
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	AVENUES-1 THE HATTON GARDEN JOB 11:50 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	47 METERS DOWN 9:15 PM RESIDENT EVIL: VENDETTA- Arabic 11:15 PM 47 METERS DOWN 1:15 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-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
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-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
MUHALAB-1 JAB HARRY MET SEJAL -Hindi 12:30 PM THE DARK TOWER 1:30 PM FRI 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" SUN 6:35 PM DUNKIRK 9:30 PM JAB HARRY MET SEJAL -Hindi 11:45 PM	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
MUHALAB-2 THE EMOJI MOVIE 12:00 PM THE EMOJI MOVIE 2:00 PM WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES 4:00 PM THE EMOJI MOVIE 6:45 PM KIDNAP 9:00 PM KIDNAP 11:00 PM KIDNAP 1:00 AM	MARINA-1 THE EMOJI MOVIE 12:30 PM THE EMOJI MOVIE 3:00 PM THE EMOJI MOVIE 5:30 PM DUNKIRK 7:30 PM WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES 9:45 PM DUNKIRK 12:30 AM	AVENUES-5 KIDNAP 12:45 PM WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES 2:45 PM ANTAR IBN IBN IBN SHADAD -Arabic 5:30 PM KIDNAP 7:50 PM ANTAR IBN IBN IBN SHADAD -Arabic 10:05 PM KIDNAP 12:30 AM	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
MUHALAB-3 THE DARK TOWER 11:45 AM ANTAR IBN IBN IBN SHADAD -Arabic 2:30 PM THE EMOJI MOVIE -Arabic 5:00 PM ANTAR IBN IBN IBN SHADAD -Arabic 7:00 PM ANTAR IBN IBN IBN SHADAD -Arabic 9:30 PM KIDNAP 12:05 AM	MARINA-2 ANTAR IBN IBN IBN SHADAD -Arabic 11:30 AM WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES 2:00 PM ANTAR IBN IBN IBN SHADAD -Arabic 4:45 PM ANTAR IBN IBN IBN SHADAD -Arabic 7:05 PM ANTAR IBN IBN IBN SHADAD -Arabic 9:30 PM ANTAR IBN IBN IBN SHADAD -Arabic 12:05 AM	AVENUES-6 KIDNAP 12:00 PM KIDNAP 2:00 PM KIDNAP 4:15 PM KIDNAP 6:15 PM KIDNAP 8:30 PM ANTAR IBN IBN IBN SHADAD -Arabic 10:35 PM ANTAR IBN IBN IBN SHADAD -Arabic 12:55 AM	360 --1 KIDNAP 11:40 AM KIDNAP 1:40 PM KIDNAP 3:40 PM KIDNAP 6:15 PM KIDNAP 8:30 PM KIDNAP 11:00 PM KIDNAP 1:00 AM
FANAR-1 DUNKIRK 12:30 PM THE DARK TOWER 2:45 PM WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES 4:45 PM DUNKIRK 7:30 PM BABY DRIVER 9:45 PM THE DARK TOWER 12:05 AM	MARINA-3 KIDNAP 12:45 PM KIDNAP 2:45 PM THE EMOJI MOVIE -Arabic 4:45 PM KIDNAP 6:45 PM KIDNAP 8:45 PM THE DARK TOWER 10:45 PM KIDNAP 12:45 AM	AVENUES-7 SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING 12:35 PM RESIDENT EVIL: VENDETTA- Arabic 3:15 PM 47 METERS DOWN 5:20 PM RESIDENT EVIL: VENDETTA- Arabic 7:15 PM	360 --2 JAB HARRY MET SEJAL -Hindi 12:15 PM THE HATTON GARDEN JOB 1:30 PM FRI 3:25 PM JAB HARRY MET SEJAL -Hindi 3:25 PM JAB HARRY MET SEJAL -Hindi 6:30 PM NO FRI-SAT-MON 6:30 PM VELAAILLA PATTADHARI 2- Tamil 6:30 PM FRI-SAT-MON 9:15 PM

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Indian, male, MBA (finance), pursuing CFA (USA) having 12 years experience in Kuwait, presently working as finance manager, is looking for similar post for immediate placement. Please call 90073251 / 55584351. (C 5339) 14-8-2017

SITUATION WANTED
A.B.E. graduate in electronics & communications & further master's in embedded system & instrumentation. A year of experience in layout & design engineering at Linde AG, Germany. For any possible vacancy & detailed resume please contact: 94081644, shettyswathi07@gmail.com

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DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Thursday 17/8/2017				Departure Flights on Thursday 17/8/2017			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
JAI	574	Mumbai	00:05	SYR	342	Damascus	12:00
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	QTR	1075	Doha	12:10
KAC	102	London	00:15	RBG	554	Alexandria	12:10
SVA	502	Jeddah	00:20	MSC	404	Asyut	12:15
SVA	514	Riyadh	00:25	JZR	176	Dubai	13:10
KAC	786	Jeddah	00:30	JZR	786	Riyadh	13:10
JZR	267	Beirut	00:35	PAW	669	Manila	13:10
KAC	504	Beirut	00:45	SAW	702	Damascus	13:30
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	THY	767	Istanbul	13:45
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	FEG	932	Alexandria	13:55
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
SAI	441	Lahore	01:30	KAC	413	Bangkok	14:05
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	AXB	394	Kozhikode	14:10
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	KNE	382	Taif	15:00
KKK	6506	Istanbul	01:55	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:00
AKB	395	Kozhikode	02:00	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
KLM	446	Bahrain	02:05	FDB	060	Dubai	15:05
PGT	830	Istanbul	02:10	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
QTR	1086	Doha	02:10	KAC	563	Amman	15:40
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
THY	768	Istanbul	02:35	JZR	188	Dubai	15:50
KAC	418	Manila	02:50	KAC	775	Riyadh	15:50
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	KAC	661	Abu Dhabi	15:55
MSR	606	Luxor	03:05	KAC	743	Dammam	16:00
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10	KAC	619	Doha	16:00
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	FDB	8054	Dubai	16:05
FDB	069	Dubai	03:15	OMA	646	Muscat	16:10
KAC	382	Delhi	03:15	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
QTR	1076	Doha	03:45	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
KAC	1544	Cairo	03:50	KAC	615	Bahrain	16:30
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	SAW	706	Damascus	16:50
QTR	1090	Doha	04:05	RJA	641	Amman	16:55
JZR	555	Alexandria	04:05	KAC	675	Dubai	17:00
UAE	873	Dubai	04:15	FDB	056	Dubai	17:05
KAC	358	Kochi	04:50	JZR	262	Beirut	17:15
FEG	931	Alexandria	05:00	KAC	503	Beirut	17:15
THY	1414	Jeddah	05:05	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
THY	170	Bahrain	05:10	KNE	532	Jeddah	17:25
THY	770	Istanbul	05:25	JZR	240	Amman	17:30
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	KAC	357	Kochi	17:40
JZR	529	Asyut	05:35	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
KAC	362	Colombo	05:50	KAC	381	Delhi	17:50
BAW	157	London	06:05	NIA	362	Alexandria	17:50
KAC	204	Lahore	06:20	JZR	512	Sharm el-Sheikh	18:00
KAC	678	Dubai	06:25	KAC	343	Chennai	18:00
QTR	8511	Doha	06:35	KAC	283	Dhaka	18:00
FDB	284	Dubai	06:35	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:40	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:55	JZR	184	Dubai	18:25
KAC	156	Istanbul	07:05	JZR	538	Cairo	18:30
JZR	1541	Cairo	07:10	KAC	785	Jeddah	18:45
JZR	503	Luxor	07:25	THY	1283	TXZ	19:05
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	QTR	1081	Doha	19:15
KAC	354	Bangalore	07:50	JZR	124	Bahrain	19:20
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	19:20
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:05	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
UAE	854	Dubai	08:25	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
IRA	673	Ahwaz	08:35	FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:00
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	NIA	162	Cairo	20:15
IRA	667	Esfahan	09:05	FDB	058	Dubai	20:30
QTR	1070	Doha	09:25	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC	353	Bangalore	20:55
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	KAC	1543	Cairo	21:00
FDK	803	Damascus	10:00	DLH	634	Doha	21:00
JZR	561	Sohag	10:10	OMA	648	Muscat	21:05
AHY	5101	GYD	10:15	KNE	232	Riyadh	21:10
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	JZR	554	Alexandria	21:15
KAC	774	Riyadh	10:45	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	KAC	301	Mumbai	21:40
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	KAC	203	Lahore	21:45
PAL	668	Manila	11:00	DXH	171	Bahrain	21:50
SYR	341	Damascus	11:00	QTR	1089	Doha	21:50
MSC	403	Asyut	11:15	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:00
KAC	614	Bahrain	11:15	KAC	155	Istanbul	22:15
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:30	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	KLM	445	Bahrain	22:25
GFA	213	Bahrain	12:25	THY	1401	ADB	22:25
SAW	709	Latakia	12:30	KAC	383	Delhi	22:35
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	UAE	860	Dubai	22:35
THY	766	Istanbul	12:50	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:50
				ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:00
				KAC	783	Jeddah	23:10
				QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
				KAC	1801	Cairo	23:55



A street memorial is lit during a candlelight vigil for Elvis Presley in front of Graceland, Presley's Memphis home, in Memphis, Tennessee. — AP

\$28.75 CHARGE TO VISIT ELVIS' GRAVE DURING VIGIL UPSETS FANS

For nearly four decades, fans of the late singer Elvis Presley have made a solemn procession past his grave at his Graceland mansion during the annual candlelight vigil commemorating his death, without paying a penny. This year, on the 40th anniversary of the rock 'n' roll icon's death, it cost them \$28.75. Many fans were not happy. Visitors attending the vigil that began Tuesday night and runs into Wednesday had to have an Elvis Week Property Pass wristband to walk up the long driveway and past the graves where Presley and relatives are buried, Graceland said in a written statement.

The \$28.75 wristband also provided access to a new \$45 million entertainment complex at the Memphis tourist attraction. Graceland, operated by Elvis Presley Enterprises, said it anticipated large crowds and it updated its security measures for Elvis Week, the annual celebration of Presley's life and career in music and movies. Presley died on Aug 16, 1977, in Memphis. "In order to keep everyone safe and ensure an enjoyable and meaningful event for all, we have worked closely with local, state and federal security authorities to establish new procedures that have been widely used across the US," Graceland's statement said.

Thousands of mourning fans holding white candles burning a yellow-orange flame made a slow, silent walk through the graves Tuesday night. Before the procession began, Priscilla Presley, the performer's former wife, and Lisa Marie Presley, their daughter, thanked the crowd for their love and dedication. A crowd estimate was not immediately available. Officials had

prepared for about 30,000 to 50,000 people. A few Presley fans made a pilgrimage to Graceland the year he died, and they've continued coming ever since. Graceland says it averages 500,000 visitors per year from around the world.

Elvis week

The announcement surprised fans who didn't know about the charge when they made plans to come to Elvis Week. Some reacted with angry messages on social media, saying they won't attend another vigil. Longtime fan Fred Schwarz of Springfield, Illinois, said Tuesday that he and his wife have been to several vigils and have enjoyed them. But not this year. He says fans should be insulted at the new charge. "I looked forward to going down there this year, and they come up with all this," Schwarz said.

"I don't want to even go to Memphis anymore. The people running that are not Elvis fans. They are in business. Corporations, they want the bottom line." Elvis Presley Enterprises was created by the Elvis Presley Trust to manage its assets, according to Graceland's website. It was wholly owned by the Elvis Presley Trust and Lisa Marie Presley until 2005. Elvis Presley Enterprises is now majority-owned by Graceland Holdings, led by managing partner Joel Weinschanker. Lisa Marie Presley retains 15 percent ownership in the company.

The new entertainment complex is part of a \$140 million expansion, which also includes a \$90 million, 450-room hotel that opened last year. The complex, featuring exhibits of

Presley's cars, clothing and other personal items, replaces the aging buildings that housed the exhibits for years. Access to restaurants, gift shops and an entertainment tent where people gathered before the vigil used to be free, though visitors still actually had to buy the food or memorabilia at the eateries and shops.

Now, access to them is included in the fee to enter the complex. Cheryl Skogen, of Los Angeles, was third in line waiting on Tuesday morning for the vigil later that evening. "I don't think Elvis would like it if he knew the fans were charged to go up and see," she said. Some fans didn't have a problem with the charge. Joe Makowski, who saw Presley more than 80 times in concert and came to Graceland after Presley died in 1977, said it's a good idea because of the cost of security. He also said these types of charges are seen at other tourist attractions.

"It goes along with the territory of the popularity of Elvis," said Makowski, of St. Petersburg, Florida. "There's a price for that as well, to accommodate all the people." News of the vigil charge also upset Anthony Stuchbury, of Bolton, England, who has been to Graceland more than two dozen times but did not come this year. "I understand they are a business, and there's absolutely nothing wrong with them making money," Stuchbury said. "But the current price-gouging situation has created so much friction, it's even dividing fans." — AP



Robert Yancy, only child of singer Natalie Cole, dies at 39

Robert Yancy, the only child of singer Natalie Cole and grandson of crooner Nat King Cole, has died. He was 39. Yancy was found dead Monday night at his home in the Sherman Oaks section of Los Angeles after authorities were contacted to make a welfare check. The Los Angeles County coroner's office said Tuesday that his death was reported as due to natural causes but the official cause must await an autopsy.

Yancy's aunt, Timolin Cole Augustus, told The Associated Press, "It appears to be a sudden heart attack." Natalie Cole was 65 when she died Dec 31, 2015, of pulmonary arterial hypertension, which led to heart failure. Yancy, whose father was the first of Cole's three husbands, was a drummer who played in his mother's touring band and performed at her funeral in January 2016. "We are just numb," Cole Augustus said. "The only consolation is that he's with the person he loved the most." Yancy's father, Marvin, died of a heart attack at age 34 in 1985 when the younger Yancy was 7.

Cole Augustus said by phone from her Florida home that Yancy was "completely torn apart" upon his mother's death, but had since rebounded and was performing again. "He was in a happy place. He was feeling good," she

said. "We were looking forward to celebrating his 40th birthday." Yancy, who went by Robbie, and his mother shared a strong Baptist faith and were regular churchgoers. "What a woman," Yancy told mourners at Cole's funeral.

"She taught me how to love. She had my back every time when I needed it. The greatest gift she ever gave me was Jesus. I cannot wait until that day that I see you again." At the funeral, one of Cole's sisters read a condolence letter from then-President Barack Obama to Yancy. Cole Augustus recalled her nephew as "a man of great strength and faith in God. He had an indomitable spirit. Everybody loved him."

Born Robert Adam Yancy on Oct 14, 1977, he never married. He is survived by Cole's twin sisters, Timolin and Casey Cole Hooker, and five cousins. Funeral arrangements were pending. Cole Augustus said Yancy would be laid to rest with his mother and grandfather at Forest Lawn in Glendale, California. "The dynasty is up in heaven," said Cole Augustus, who along with her sister runs the Nat King Cole Generation Hope organization that works to keep music in schools. — AP

Kim Kardashian West sorry for defending makeup artist

Kim Kardashian West is apologizing after feeling the ire of the internet for defending a makeup artist who used racial slurs several times on camera. Kardashian West says in a Snapchat video Tuesday that she's sorry for "feeling like I had the right to say 'get over it' in a situation that involves racism." Kardashian West was trending on social media after defending makeup artist Jeffrey Star as an asset to her cosmetics empire despite his history of racist remarks and calling her fans "petty" for bringing up his past.

She characterized his slurs as "negative" but said he had apologized for them and she believes people can change. She reiterated that belief in her posts on Tuesday and says she wants to "move forward and be positive." A representative for Kardashian West confirmed the authenticity of the posts but had no additional comment Tuesday. — AP



In this file photo, Kim Kardashian West arrives at the US premiere of 'The Promise' at the TCL Chinese Theatre in Los Angeles. — AP

Daniel Craig announces return as James Bond

Daniel Craig will return for a fifth go-around as James Bond. The actor confirmed reports he would reprise his role as the suave British spy for "Bond 25" during an appearance on "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert" on Tuesday night. The announcement is a reversal for Craig, who told Time Out London in 2015 he'd rather slash his wrists than do another Bond film. Craig chalks up that comment as "a stupid answer" and tells Colbert he "couldn't be happier" to return to the role. Craig breathed new life into the Bond franchise when he took over as 007 for 2006's "Casino Royale." "Bond 25" hits theaters in November 2019. — AP



This is file photo of actor Daniel Craig poses for the media as he arrives for the German premiere of the James Bond movie 'Spectre' in Berlin, Germany. — AP

Louis CK to debut black-and-white movie at Toronto festival

Louis CK has quietly shot a black-and-white 35mm film that he will premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival. Festival organizers on Tuesday announced additions to Toronto's lineup. CK's film is called "I Love You, Daddy" and will be unveiled at the early September festival. It stars CK as a TV producer and writer whose daughter is played by Chloe Grace Moretz.

"I Love You, Daddy" is the comedian's first film since the 2001 release "Pootie Tang," which he wrote and directed. He has made a habit of making new works a surprise, like last year's web series "Horace and Pete." Brie Larson's directorial debut, "Unicorn Store," will also debut at Toronto. So will Aaron Sorkin's directorial debut, "Molly's Game," starring Jessica Chastain. — AP



In this file photo, Louis CK, co-creator/writer/executive producer, participates in the 'Better Things' panel during the FX Television Critics Association Summer Press Tour at the Beverly Hilton in Beverly Hills, California. — AP

Marvel's battle-scarred 'The Defenders' find teamwork tough

Riding the slipstream of the Avengers, X-Men and Fantastic Four, "The Defenders" is promising to bring a more tortured and cerebral superhero vibe to Netflix's ever-growing repertoire of Marvel series. The show unites for the first time the titular characters from the streaming service's four standalone Marvel series—"Luke Cage," "Iron Fist," "Jessica Jones" and "Daredevil"—when it premieres on Friday. They join forces to battle a threat to their home town of New York in the shape of the malign Alexandra (Sigourney Weaver), who seems to be linked to the shady multinational conglomerate known as The Hand.

But the group starts out as a tenuous alliance between four very different characters, all of whom are used to going it alone and have little time for the concept of team spirit. The group's first meeting doesn't augur well for things to come, with Luke Cage and Danny Rand-alias the Iron Fist—even coming to blows. Actress Krysten Ritter says Jones, a young woman with a tortured past, a penchant for booze and a colorful vocabulary, is "very reluctant" in particular to be part of a team.

"Everybody's so used to working on their own, they all feel that their way is the best way," said Mike Colter, who plays Cage, at a roundtable with journalists in New York. "So sometimes each one of us gets really determined to force our way of doing things because it's the only way we know." What persuades the four heroes to band together, says Colter, has to be something really big—a danger to "a larger number of people than just the people of Harlem" that threatens the whole city.

Character first, drama first

Filmed entirely in the Big Apple, "The Defenders" is steeped in the culture and custom of New York, a real-life backdrop that feels more organic than the fictional cities of Gotham or Metropolis. "Historically, some people shot other places for New York. To some degree it's effective when you deal with people that have never been to New York," said Colter, 40. "But if you've been to New York, you immediately can tell. New York is very important because I think it symbolizes a sort of freedom to the world."

"The Defenders" is distinguished from many superhero series and movies in the time it takes to explore the internal conflicts that haunt each of its heroes. Jessica Jones, in particular, is struggling to find her place in the world, scarred by "traumas and injustices" after losing her parents in a car accident, says Ritter, 35. When they are brought together, each of the four Defenders is in transition, without a superhero costume, in search of an identity.

"I built (Jones) from the ground up, based on her back story, on what she's been through in her life and how she views the world—with a little sense of humor on top of it to lighten things up," said Ritter. She added that she sees Jones as "a character who has super powers" rather than as a superhero. "For me, it's character first, drama first. I just approach it like I would any other acting part." — AFP

MUSIC & MOVIES

Taiwan's Rainie Yang stars in horror sequel 'Tag Along 2'

Taiwanese singer and actress Rainie Yang stars in "The Tag Along 2," a sequel to the 2015 hit that's loosely based on a ghostly urban legend in Taiwan about a little girl who appears in the footage of a family's hiking trip. The only problem was, she wasn't part of the family and no one seemed to recall seeing a young girl on the mountain that day.

The actual footage of the mysterious "little girl in red" was broadcast on Taiwanese television in the 1990s. Some believed that she was roaming the mountains looking for her next victim. "The little girl in red was photographed really clearly," Yang said in an interview with The Associated Press. "People have been talking about it for the last 20 years. It happened when I was very little but I still remember it well. So it definitely had a far reach."

In the sequel, Yang plays a social worker whose daughter goes missing in the mountains. She joins the search and rescue team and while looking for her lost daughter gets haunted by the little girl in red. "From there she discovered the obsession of

the little girl in red," Yang said. "Everyone has their obsession, whether you're human or a ghost and when you have an obsession, you can't let it go. That's why you keep hanging around, and can't get over it. So because she stumbled across all this, the story began."

It is customary in Asia to hold a blessing ceremony before filming commences for horror movies to keep the cast and crew from harm's way. Yang said that the sequel included a blessing ceremony before shooting every scene. She found out later that quite a few "coincidences" happened while filming the first movie - which prompted director Cheng Wei-hao to take extra precautions while making the second.

"When they were shooting the first film, a lot of the men (crew members) will relieve themselves wherever it's convenient. Sometimes they're not being thoughtful about it, and no joke, the next day, they will get a fever. They will get sick the next day." "So they feel like they had to believe ... You can't go to toilet wherever you want. They realized that they needed to pay

attention to that. So, to avoid people getting sick during the filming of the sequel, and because it's very inconvenient to find a toilet (in wilderness), and also they didn't want the crew to get sick to delay filming, that's why at every set, there is a toilet just for our cast and crew," Yang said.

The star of the first movie, Tiffany Hsu, returns in the sequel. This time, Hsu's character takes a darker turn and is on the brink of a breakdown. Yang, who is friends with Hsu in real life, said that the challenges for both of them were to put aside their friendship and act like complete strangers when the cameras were rolling. "We've known each other for about 18 years," Yang said. "We have such great chemistry but there was no use for it in this movie, because her character lives in her world, and I'm focused on mine, so they didn't have much interaction. For us, our challenges lie in pretending we're strangers," Yang said. "The Tag-Along 2" hits theaters in Taiwan on Aug. 25. — AP



In this photo, Taiwanese actress Rainie Yang poses during an interview with The Associated Press in Taipei, Taiwan. — AP



In this file photo, filmmaker Michael Moore attends the Turner Network 2017 Upfront presentation at The Theater at Madison Square Garden in New York. — AP

Michael Moore leads audience of Broadway play to Trump Tower

Michael Moore has led the audience of his Broadway play to Trump Tower to protest President Donald Trump's comments about the deadly violence in Charlottesville, Virginia. On Facebook, Moore urged people to join him at the tower following Tuesday night's performance of his one-man show "The Terms of My Surrender" to "nonviolently express our rage."

After the play, the 63-year-old Oscar-winning filmmaker, commentator and liberal activist is seen on a Facebook Live video leading a group of people on buses to the tower, where the president is currently staying for the first time since his inauguration. Moore was joined by actor Mark Ruffalo. During the bus ride, Ruffalo, using a bullhorn, led the group in chants including "No Trump, no KKK, no fascist USA" and encouraged people on the street to join them at the tower. Hundreds of demonstrators have been gathering there since Trump arrived Monday night.

Earlier Tuesday, during an impromptu news conference in the building's lobby, Trump declared that "there is blame on both sides" for the violence in Virginia, appearing to once again equate the actions of white supremacist groups and those protesting them. Moore described the president's comments as "just awful, disgusting." White nationalists, neo-Nazis and other far-right extremists assembled last Saturday to protest a decision by the city of Charlottesville to remove a statue of Confederate Gen.

Robert E. Lee. Heather Heyer, 32, was killed when a man plowed his car into a crowd of counter-protesters. Outside Trump Tower Tuesday night, Moore and Ruffalo held a candlelight vigil and urged the crowd to never forget Heyer and make sure she didn't "die in vain." — AP

Game of Thrones actor warns about husky craze

Game of Thrones actor Peter Dinklage on Tuesday urged fans of the series to stop buying huskies because of their similarity to fearsome "direwolves," as many were being quickly abandoned. "To all Game of Thrones' many wonderful fans, we understand that due to the direwolves' huge popularity, many folks are going out and buying huskies," the US actor, who plays Tyrion Lannister, said in a statement issued by the animal rights group PETA.

"Shelters are... reporting that many of the huskies are being abandoned-as often happens when dogs are bought on impulse, without understanding their needs," he said, urging people to adopt other dogs instead. PETA said that since the hugely successful HBO series started in

2011, animal rescue centres in Britain had seen a 700-per cent increase in abandoned huskies from around 10 a year to 81 last year.

Two rescue groups in Northern California in the United States had also seen their numbers of huskies double over the last two years, it added. PETA said the huskies were being dumped when the "novelty wears off" and their new owners realised the work and commitment required to care for them. The campaign group said the films "101 Dalmatians," "Beverly Hills Chihuahua," "Legally Blonde" and "Men in Black" had caused similar spikes in sales and subsequent abandonment of the featured dog breeds. — AFP

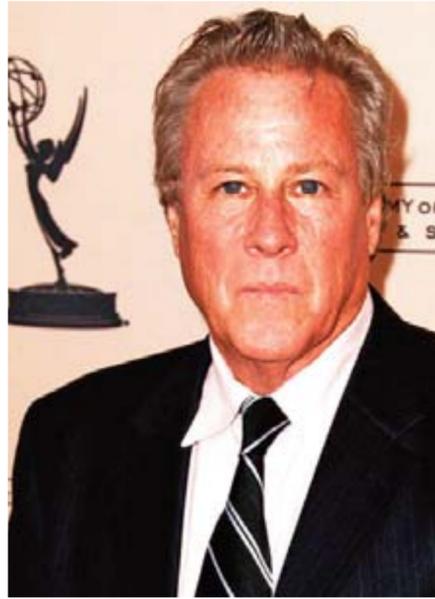


CALVIN HARRIS TO PERFORM AT RIHANNA'S DIAMOND BALL CHARITY

The writer and producer of Rihanna's hit "We Found Love" is set to perform at her charity event in New York next month. Rihanna said yesterday that Scottish DJ-producer Calvin Harris will join fellow performer Kendrick Lamar and host Dave Chappelle on Sept 14 for her third Diamond Ball. Her organization, The Clara Lionel Foundation, is holding the event at Cipriani Wall Street. Rihanna and Harris' "We Found Love" won them a Grammy Award in 2013. The performers also collaborated on last year's hit "This Is What You Came For." Harris' other dance-flavored hits include "Summer" and "Sweet Nothing." Rihanna founded The Clara Lionel Foundation in 2012 in honor of her grandparents Clara and Lionel Braithwaite. The foundation promotes education and arts globally. — AP



In this file photo, Rihanna arrives at the 59th annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles. — AP



'Home Alone' actor John Heard died of cardiac arrest

Officials say actor John Heard, whose body was found last month in a Northern California hotel, died of cardiac arrest. The Santa Clara County Coroner's Office said Tuesday an autopsy revealed the 71-year-old actor died "a sudden cardiac death due to atherosclerotic and hypertensive heart disease." Heard was found dead July 21 in a hotel in Palo Alto, California. He was recovering from back surgery at Stanford University Medical Center.

The coroner's office says his back surgery did not play a role in his death. Heard's many roles included the father in the "Home Alone" and "Home Alone 2: Lost in New York" movies and a corrupt detective in the television series "The Sopranos." Heard was married and divorced three times, including briefly to actress Margot Kidder. He had three children. — AP

Pink to get Michael Jackson Video Vanguard Award at MTV VMAs

Pink's 17-year-old music career will be honored at the MTV Video Music Awards with the Michael Jackson Video Vanguard Award. The Grammy-winning singer will receive the honor Aug 27 at the Forum in Inglewood, California, MTV said Tuesday. She will also perform at the awards show. The Vanguard award honors musicians who have had an impact on pop culture with their songs, fashion and music videos.

Past winners include Madonna, Peter Dinklage, Beyoncé

and Justin Timberlake. Pink released her debut album in 2000. She recently dropped a new single, "What About Us," and will release her seventh album, "Beautiful Trauma," on Oct 13. Other performers include Kendrick Lamar, Ed Sheeran, Miley Cyrus, the Weeknd, Lorde, Shawn Mendes and host Katy Perry. Lamar is the top VMA contender with eight nominations. — AP



In this file photo, Pink performs during the Festival d'été de Québec in Quebec City, Canada. — AP

Indian company regrets leak of 'GOT' episode

An India-based media technology company said yesterday that it regrets the recent leak of an episode of the popular HBO series "Game of Thrones" by four of its current and former employees. Indian police have detained the four suspects, but said their motive for leaking the episode titled "The Spoils of War" was unclear. The fourth episode in the television series' seventh season leaked three days before its planned Aug 6 air date and quickly circulated online.

Though not related to the hack of HBO computer systems just days earlier, the episode leak compounded problems for the network in trying to keep information

from the fantasy show under wraps. Prime Focus Technologies, a subsidiary of the global entertainment services company Prime Focus, said in a statement yesterday that the leak "was not a system hack, but an illegal breach of obligations by the concerned persons despite PFT's continual internal emphasis on protocols of content security and ethical practices." Police are investigating possible charges against the four suspects, including criminal breach of trust and violation of India's information technology act. — AP



Food Network star Anne Burrell shows off some of her creations for an all-Cheetos menu for a three-day pop-up restaurant, during a press preview in New York.



A garnished beverage made with Cheetos.



A grill cheese made with Cheetos. — AP photos

Dangerously cheesy? Cheetos pop-up restaurant opens in NYC

Gourmet fun or just plain cheesy? A three-day pop-up restaurant devoted to Cheetos, yes Cheetos, opened in Manhattan on Tuesday, with every table already booked with diners ready to pay between \$8 and \$22 for such creations as Cheetos meatballs, Cheetos crusted fried pickles, Cheetos tacos, Mac n' Cheetos and even Cheetos cheesecake.

"I worked hard to incorporate Cheetos into every dish and not just say, 'Oh here's a dish with a sprinkle of Cheetos on top,'" said spiky-haired celebrity chef Anne Burrell, who was given the task of coming up with the menu for The Spotted Cheetah. "I really tried to think about the flavor of each Cheeto and what would pair really well with it." But the question seemingly on everyone's orange-coated lips is: Why?

Makers of the popular puffed cornmeal snack say the pop-up was the deliciously shrewd result of whimsy and marketing after executives noticed Cheetos fans posting their own recipes incorporating the crunchy treat on social media. "So we thought it was a great trend to try to capitalize on and bring to life an idea, a concept like this really that spoke to how you could use Cheetos in such a variety of different ways," said Ryan Matiyow, a marketing manager for Frito-Lay, a unit of PepsiCo. He said the 300 reservations available for the eatery's three nights sold out within six hours.

Burrell, host of Food Network's "Worst Cooks in America" and other programs, showed off some of her dishes as her staff scrambled to prepare the food and set places in a dining room decorated with swaths of orange fabric and images of brand

mascot Chester the Cheetah. Crumbled Cheetos are part of the breading on chicken Milanese and fried green tomatoes. A garnished Cheetos beverage accompanies a grilled cheese, tomato and bacon sandwich that gets an extra crunch from Cheetos.

Desserts feature the cinnamon sugar Cheetos variety known as Sweetos. Melissa Abbott, a vice president of the Hartman Group, a consumer research firm, said the Cheetos restaurant is partly a reaction to the emphasis on health in today's food culture. "All of the salad and juice bars and all that ... At some point you have to balance the scales a little bit and have some fun." — AP



Tacos made with Cheetos.



Bugs on the menu at Swiss supermarket

Switzerland's first insect-based food aimed at humans will go on sale next week following a revision of the country's food safety laws, a supermarket chain said Monday. Switzerland's second-largest supermarket chain, Coop, announced it would begin selling an insect burger, and insect balls, based on protein-rich mealworm.

The products, made by a Swiss start-up called Essento, will be available in a handful of Coop branches, including in Geneva, Bern and Zurich,

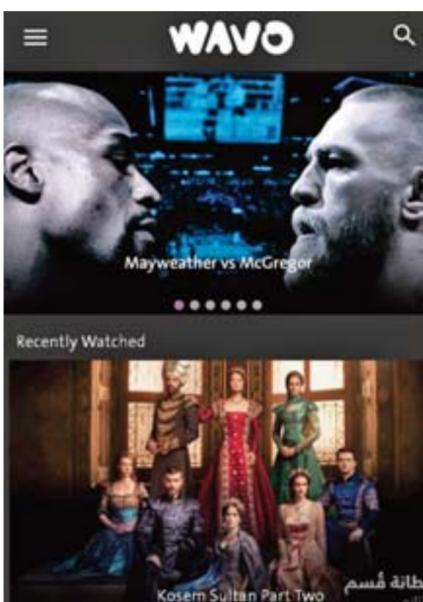
as of August 21, according to a statement. Switzerland is the first European country to authorize the sale of insect-based food items for human consumption, a spokeswoman for the country's food safety authority said. Swiss food safety laws were changed last May to allow for the sale of food items containing three types of insects: crickets, grasshoppers and mealworms, which are the larval form of the mealworm beetle.

These insects, long used in animal feed, must be bred under strict supervision for four genera-

tions before they are considered appropriate for human consumption, according to Swiss law. Local production will thus take a few months to get started. In the meantime, imports are possible under strict conditions—the insects must be raised in accordance with the Swiss requirements at a company submitted to inspections by national food safety authorities. — AFP



OSN launches flexi-priced TV streaming service, WAVO



OSN, the region's leading entertainment network, yesterday announced its all-new online and mobile app entertainment platform, "WAVO" - which is now available to download and enjoy from the App Store and Google Play. WAVO builds on the pioneering model of 'anytime, anywhere' entertainment with a full spectrum of can't-miss live and catch up TV, Hollywood blockbusters, hit series and a diverse range of Western and Arabic content.

WAVO has something for everyone in four distinct packages with great value and flexible pricing and no annual contracts. Customers can come and go as they please for incredible access to watch when and how they want. The launch of WAVO underpins OSN's strategy to offer entertainment anywhere for everyone, at a price to suit every pocket, as part of 'new OSN' launched earlier this year, specifically developed in the region.

As consumers grow increasingly mobile-savvy, online and app platforms continue to gain traction in the market with revenues in the region set to more than quadruple by 2022.

Martin Stewart, CEO, OSN said: "WAVO is the next phase of new OSN - entertainment everywhere for everyone at a price to suit every pocket. OSN has the best entertainment in the region by far and we're making more of it available to more people through their devices."

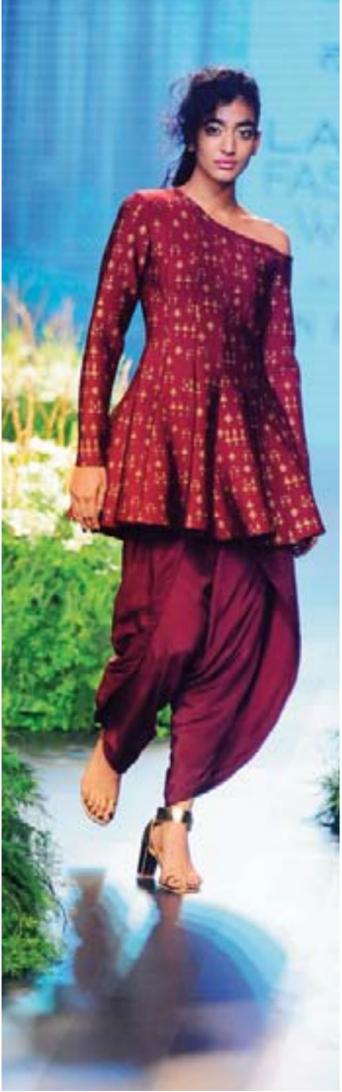
"We have lots of happy customers but we know viewing habits are changing, particularly among the young, and we know that everyone, no matter how much they have to spend, wants convenient, quick access to great entertainment - WAVO helps OSN to deliver on that."

Distinct from competitors, WAVO offers an exciting com-



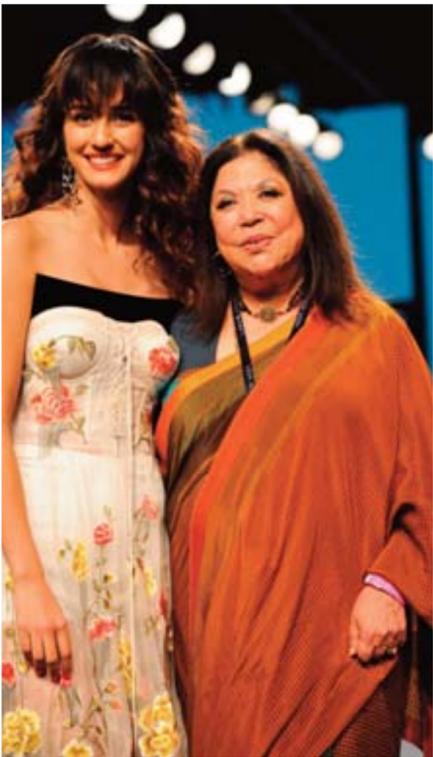
ination of both live and catch-up TV, forging a new path in the online and app entertainment marketplace. Live or on-demand, WAVO's content includes English and Arabic programming, covering hit TV series, blockbuster movies and live and exclusive sporting events - with the option for English and Arabic subtitles - to provide an unprecedented viewing experience.

With an incredible breadth of content, WAVO offers four packages plus the option to purchase daily and weekly passes for access to the best sporting action. Customers can 'stay entertained' by signing up for WAVO Entertainment (US\$9.99 per month), WAVO Movies (US\$6.99 per month), WAVO Sports (US\$4.99 per day; US\$7.99 per week; US\$13.99 per month), or can opt for the WWE Network App (US\$9.99 per month).

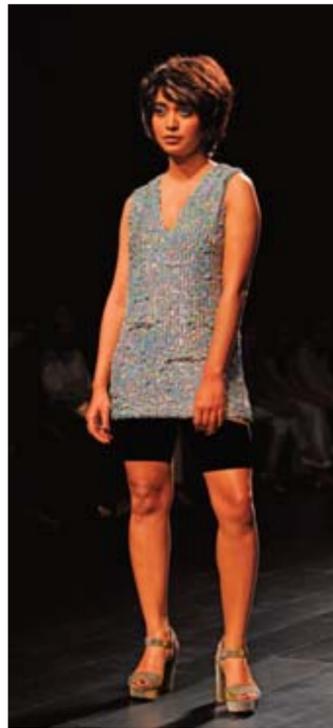


LAKME FASHION WEEK (LFW) WINTER /FESTIVE 2017

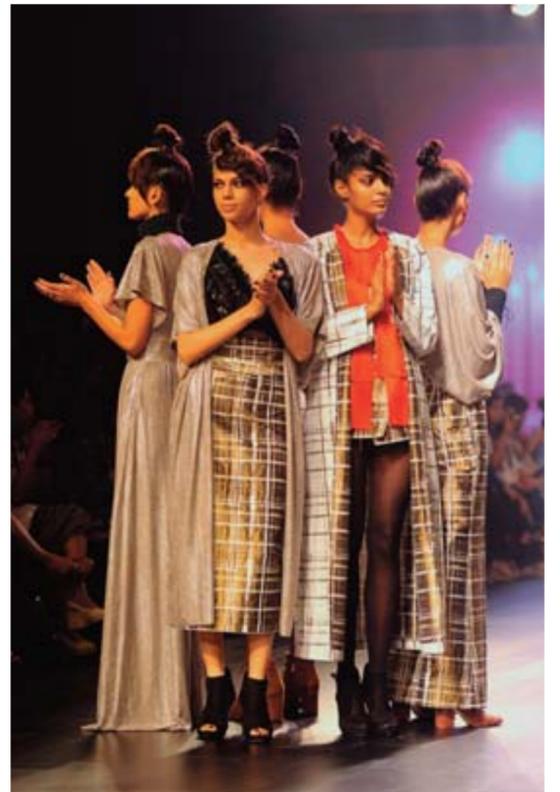
Models showcase creations by designer Masaba at Lakme Fashion Week (LFW) Winter /Festive 2017 in Mumbai. — AFP photos



Indian Bollywood actress Disha Patani, left, showcases a creation by designer Ritu Kumar, right, at Lakme Fashion Week (LFW) Winter /Festive 2017 in Mumbai. — AFP photos



Indian Bollywood actress Sayani Gupta showcases a creation by designer Shweta Kapur.



Models showcase creations by designer Ritu Kumar.

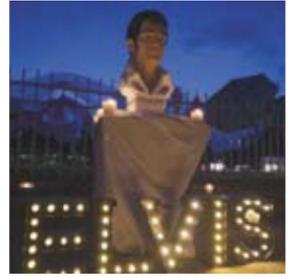
Models showcase creations by designer Shweta Kapur.

Lifestyle

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 2017

\$28.75 charge to visit Elvis' grave during vigil upsets fans

28



People rest by the famous Druzhba Narodov (Friendship of nations) fountain in the All-Russia Exhibition Centre (VDNKh), a trade show and amusement park in Moscow. — AFP

Princess Diana: Fashionista who shook up the royal dress code

Princess Diana revolutionized the royal dress code with the help of some of the world's greatest designers during a glamorous life that came to a tragic end 20 years ago this month. "Diana has become a fashion icon in the same way as Jackie Kennedy or Audrey Hepburn—timeless, elegant, and still so relevant," said Eleri Lynn, curator of "Diana: Her Fashion Story", an exhibition at her Kensington Palace home in London.

Nicknamed "Shy Di" ahead of her marriage to Prince Charles, the heir to the throne, in 1981,



This file photo shows Britain's Diana, Princess of Wales, left, and her sons Prince Harry, center, and Prince William, as they gather for the commemorations of VJ Day in London.

Diana came out of her shell and realized how her clothes could be used as a powerful communication tool. "The princess learned to make her wardrobe say what she could not, and worked closely with designers like Catherine Walker to curate her personality through clothes," Sophie Goodwin, fashion director of Tatler magazine, told The New York Times in February. Diana mastered the art of wearing the right dress for the right occasion.

She wore bright clothes when visiting hospices, in order to appear warm and accessible. On foreign visits, she would choose clothes inspired by the national colors, such as the white dress with red spots she wore on the trip to Japan in 1986. She chose not to wear gloves "because she liked to make contact with the people she was meeting," said Lynn.

Pictures of the princess shaking hands with AIDS patients in 1987 helped to break down myths surrounding the disease, including the unfounded fear of being able to catch it through touching sufferers. The most photographed woman of the age, Diana understood the rules of royal dressing but was not afraid of twisting them. She breached royal protocol by wearing a black ball gown, a color worn formally by royal women only during mourning.

Daring outfits

Her outfits included androgynous gear, such as a tuxedo and a bow tie. "That's quite the bold, fun look that you don't necessarily expect of a princess," said Lynn. She said Diana was the first woman in the royal family to wear trousers to an evening event.

She also helped to modernize the royal wardrobe, with outfits that made a lasting impression. The midnight blue Victor Edelstein velvet evening gown she wore for a dinner at the White House in 1985 is one of her most famous. It was in this dress that the princess danced with US actor John Travolta, to the hit "You Should Be Dancing" from the film "Saturday Night Fever" in which he starred. Nicknamed the Travolta dress, it even has its own Wikipedia page and sold for £240,000 (\$318,000, 268,000 euros) at auction in 2013.

After her divorce from Charles in 1996, Diana switched up her style once again, abandoning the British designers she had relied upon in favor of international fashion houses such as Dior, Lacroix or Chanel.

Diana ditched the frills, taffeta and giant ball gowns and adopted more daring outfits, like the figure-hugging sky blue Jacques Azagury dress that went as far above the knee as the designer felt he could go at the time with a princess.

"For so many years, the princess of Wales was the world's one and only fashion obsession, and the forerunner of modern glamour as we know it. She had to make it all up for herself," wrote Sarah Mower in the Daily Mail newspaper.

Diana's look was widely copied and still inspires catwalks and designers to this day. The online clothing site ASOS launched a Diana-inspired collection in October 2016, playing on her off-duty look. Her style even has a presence in the social media age. An Instagram account called Princess Diana Forever, which has 160,000 followers, posts a daily picture of her in various outfits, bringing her to a new generation. — AFP



Foreign tourists train with a wooden gun as they participate in a two-hour anti-terrorism course at the Caliber 3 shooting range, near the Israeli occupied West Bank settlement of Efrat. — AFP

Israeli firm offers 'anti-terrorism' adventure to tourists

The foreigners yell "fire, fire, fire" before shooting their automatic weapons as Israeli instructors look on—but this is no military training. The 20 or so Jewish tourists from South America are on an "anti-terrorism" course run by former Israeli soldiers in the occupied West Bank. Their targets are balloons nearby. "The aim of the training is not to teach you how to shoot," Eitan Cohen, one of the instructors, says to the group, "but to make you understand what we do here in Israel to fight terrorism."

The tourist attraction offers an unusual option for visitors coming to see Jerusalem's holy sites or to float in the Dead Sea. But while it may be exhilarating or instructive for some, others find it offensive, accusing the company of profiting from Israel's occupation of Palestinian territory and fears of "terrorism." The company is called Caliber 3, located near the Israeli settlement of Efrat south of Jerusalem, and it began in 2003 as a training camp for professional security personnel such as police.

The instructors, including ex-soldiers who say they served in elite units, use their experience gained through Israel's various conflicts. Since 2009, it has also become an attraction for tourists who are taught how to handle weapons, participate in paintball or learn Krav Maga, the self-defense method using boxing and martial arts developed by the Israeli military. They pay

a little over \$100 to participate.

One program sees the tourists stumble onto a "terrorist attack" in a simulated market with plastic fruits and wooden stalls. Instructors are disguised, including one wearing a Palestinian-style headscarf. Suddenly, instructors in fatigues yell at the tourists to get on the ground, then they stop a "terrorist" with a knife—not the person with the headscarf. Cohen, 41, debriefs them and tells them to always be alert in a crowd.

He has a Rambo-like look: fatigues, sunglasses perched on his forehead, rifle slung over his shoulder and a pistol on his belt. Caliber 3's website says he is a former sniper and member of elite police units. "I'm going to show you the values of soldiers in the Israeli army and how we fight against terrorists," he says to the tourists, who take photos of him with Israeli flags in the background.

Dan Cohen, 49, came from Caracas with his family to vacation in Israel and decided to add the training to his itinerary. While his children play paintball nearby, he and his wife Lili listen attentively to the instructor before a crash course in handling automatic weapons and firing on a balloon stuck to a target. "We came here thinking we were going to do something completely different," he says, adding they wanted to learn "how to shoot" and "react in a terrorist situation, God forbid". — AFP



This combination of file photos shows, (LtoR), Britain's Diana, Princess of Wales, arriving at the Lille Congress Hall in Lille, France, for the opening of Paul McCartney's oratorio 'Liverpool'; Britain's Diana, Princess of Wales, visiting the Badshahi Mosque in Lahore; Britain's Diana, Princess of Wales, arriving at the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute dinner dance in Sydney. — AFP photos